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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2013

Out and About with The GEM

Page 14



Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE - Pages 22 & 23

SALUTE TO BARRY'S VOLUNTEERS!



Voluntary workers play a vital role – to find out what services are provided by one group in the centre of Barry, and their hopes for the future, turn to page 4.

Jail for man who stole £20,000 from his grandmother

A LOCAL authority worker who stole £20,000 from his 80-year-old grandmother to fund his gambling addiction, has been jailed for one year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Roff Jones (35) was said by Recorder Mark Powell to have committed

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

"despicable offences".

Jones, of Park Crescent, Barry, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to three charges of fraud and charges of theft, and using an article for use in the course of fraud and theft.

The Recorder told

him: "I have to send you to prison. This was a series of serious, mean and despicable offences against your grandmother by means of forgery, and stealing money from her."

He said she was entitled to the support of her family and not have one of them steal from her.

He said she was a vulnerable person and was entitled to Jones being a support, not a thief.

Jones, he added, had let his family down badly.

Prosecutor Hywel Hughes said the victim was Mrs June Parry.

"Jones had gambling problems and accessed her Santander bank account via cheque books and bank cards."

To supplement his drawings, Jones took out a loan in her name and when it went into her account, he withdrew the cash.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Landmark charity ball for Barry cause as...

Karen celebrates best news ever!

THE Barry charity, Karen's Cause, is to hold a special ball on March 2 – as its founder celebrates wonderful news.

Karen Holroyd, who was diagnosed with incurable cervical cancer in 2012, explained: "I am in remission!"

Karen's Cause was initially set up to help raise funds for Karen to have state-of-the-art cyberknife treatment in her battle against cancer.

She received the treatment, which uses robotics to treat tumours, at Mount Vernon Hospital in London and now wants it to be available in Wales.

Karen told The GEM: "I was told in March last year that the tumour had shrunk but had to wait until September 2012 for my scan results, so I was dreading it."

"No matter how much you want to believe it is going to be okay, there is still that doubt, but when I finally had the results, it was the best news – remission – not what any of us expected after they had said it was incurable in 2011. "I am still under the care of the oncologists and they are 'leaping me on' four monthly checks for the time being."

"This has made me more determined to get the fundraising up and going!"
Karen is due to meet

an Assembly Member soon in the charity's on-going campaign. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Report by
TIM CHAPMAN

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Jaguar car catches fire

TRAFFIC was held up at Park Crescent on Thursday afternoon, January 31, after a car caught fire.

The incident happened as children were making their way home from Romilly Primary School.

The Fire Service was on hand to put out the flames.

A spokesman explained: "Two hose reel jets were needed, and firefighters also used two sets of breathing apparatus."

A police spokesman said: "A Jaguar XJS had caught fire near Romilly Primary School, Park Crescent."

"We received a call at 3.38pm. There were no injuries."

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American 'friend' who rallied to our wartime seamen

IN Barry, we have a magnificent, restored Merchant Navy war memorial outside the Civic Offices.

Many tragedies – sometimes multiple – from the same family – are recorded there. Before they met their terrible end, did any of those men (I believe they are all men) know of Lady Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton?

Many of those who survived the Atlantic crossings in convoy or otherwise, and the Murrans run, may well recall her. Why?

She died on January 14, aged 103, but during World War Two, even though American, she organised the knitting of warm sea boot socks, initially for the Royal Navy, which blossomed into 900,000 knitters and support staff in the United States. Into every garment was sown "From your American friends".

The campaign expanded into fresh ideas, such as sending warm clothing for troops rescued at Dunkirk, and first aid supplies for victims of German bombing, including those in south Wales.

On 71 ships – only two were sunk by U-boats – she sent across

the 'Pond' 40,000 sleeveless sweaters; 10,000 sweaters with sleeves; 30,000 scarves; 20,000 pairs of mittens; 18,000 pairs of sea boot socks, as well as ambulances, first aid kits, X-ray machines, and children's overcoats.

If I continue, I will fill the whole GEM letters' page!

She even involved Buckingham Palace and the Queen Mother in fundraising support!

Eventually, after an adventurous love life, she married Wing Commander Lord Malcolm Avondale Douglas-Hamilton, OBE, DFC, the Conservative MP for Inverness and brother of the Duke of Hamilton – to whom Rudolph Hess flew, in his vain attempt to seek an armistice and anti-Communist alliance with Britain.

What a life! Many Barry Merchant Navy and Royal Navy sailors/seamen and their families will have benefited from her energy and organising skills – when America was not even in the war itself.

She needs to be remembered here, in the Vale of Glamorgan and elsewhere, wherever Merchant and Royal Navy seafarers lived. **Christopher Short, Barry**

Anthem composers

WITH reference to the article headed 'Adam's starter for ten...' in The GEM on January 31, you printed a question from University Challenge concerning a song written by two brothers from Pontypridd.

The answer given was the Welsh national anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. I wonder if anyone else has spotted the error.

They were not brothers, but were actually Evan James and his son James James. Evan James wrote the words and his son James, a harpist, composed the music.

Although not born in Pontypridd, nevertheless, Evan and his son James

are remembered in Ynysygharad Memorial Park, Pontypridd, where there is a fine memorial by Sir William Goscombe John. **David Rees, Boverton. Editor's note: Oops! Well spotted, Mr Rees.**

'Remove rubbish!'

WOULD the lager drinking painter-decorator who dumped his (or her) debris next to the athletic ground, please come and remove it?

We dog walkers do our best to keep Cowbridge clean – please do likewise. (Name and address supplied)

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'Why can't we achieve what our forefathers did?'

THE regeneration of Barry, something we have all been waiting for, is finally coming – but I wonder if it will include the town itself, which is in a sorry state?

Barry once comprised only three small villages: then came the docks, which caused an explosion of development, gave Barry its identity, and put it on the map.

Now, it's the biggest town in Wales, but looks as if it's a

poor town – and we need to ask ourselves who was responsible for allowing our town to sink so low, a town that we were proud to be a part of and would still like to be?

If you go on the Vale website for Barry, you will see a photo of Cold Knap, and old photos of Barry town.

What do we see? A town bursting with atmosphere, enjoying quality shops, offering quality products – so different from the town we have today.

Barry today lacks imagination, yet it still has much to

offer – it's not dead yet!

Instead of filling our town with charity shops, gold diggers and card shops, stop being negative.

Promote our town, bring back development, bring in quality shops with quality products.

Barry was once a bustling town and, yes, it was a hard time then, as it is now – but they did it.

Why can't we?
P Inch (nee Moore)
Barry

Remember UFO?

IT was interesting reading in The GEM about the crashed Spitfire. I can remember a plane crashing near Peterston, but does anyone remember the UFO sighted at Barry?

My wife and I cycled from Cardiff to Barry Island on an August Bank Holiday Monday in the mid-1940s.

It started getting cloudy, so we left for home, but it cleared to blue skies and that's when everybody saw it – except me.

It was shaped like a bar with a ball at each end. Did any other readers see it?

Bill Lang, Barry.

What is a fair (fuel) profit margin?

RECENTLY, the price of unleaded petrol being sold at different supermarkets (who sell more than a million litres a day, at the same time and in the same geographical area) has varied by as much as 4p per litre.

These facts are displayed on large signs at every garage, for the public to be certain about. It casts doubt on the supermarkets' claim to be competitive.

If we include all garages in a given area, at a given time, the variation has risen as much as by 10p per litre, partly due, no doubt, to the bulk-buying discounts which supermarkets enjoy.

If we exclude the matter and level of tax, which is a quite separate consideration of Government policy, these different levels of price to the consumer

represent a very substantial percentage of the wholesale price paid by the garage to the oil companies.

But it is even more alarming when a public body, the Office of Fair Trading, carries out an investigation into matters arithmetical, displayed to the whole nation on large electrically-lit signs, and comes to a conclusion which is in clear defiance of the indisputable facts, for reasons which we can only guess at.

It appears that we need a public investigator to investigate public bodies.

Neville Westerman

Share your views email
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But remember to include full name, address, and telephone number!

'Senseless waste of money on airport'

WITH regard to L Pinson's letter concerning Cardiff Airport, I have to say I agree with his comments.

However, my argument is not about differences between Cardiff Airport and Bristol Airport; it is merely down to the enormous cost of purchasing and servicing the airport.

The arguments about the distances to travel from these airports to various parts of the world don't come into it.

If you wanted to travel to America or Australia, you would probably have to travel to Heathrow or Gatwick, so no arguments there.

However, at the present moment in time, we

cannot afford to spend £80 million on this venture. Cardiff council has just announced a £22 million cut in its budget, plus over 300 job losses.

This is also partly due to Carwyn Jones' Government cuts to the settlement grants it gave the council. So how on earth can he justify spending our money on this airport, which is in my opinion, reckless?

How would anyone feel after losing their jobs if they find out that their Welsh Government has spent all this money on a defunct airport, while at the same time they have lost their jobs due to cuts?

It is senseless, and the idea should be shredded without delay.

D J Radford, Barry.

Food hygiene: 'publish ratings'

IWRITE in respect of the Welsh Government's decision to make it the law to publish hygiene ratings for establishments serving food to the public.

Although we now have to wait for this law to be passed by the British Parliament and to be given royal assent, we at least see an example of good practice being brought forward by the legislators in Cardiff Bay.

I am sure that many

others will welcome this initiative, which will make it compulsory for all hygiene ratings to be displayed.

At the moment, those with poor ratings make no effort to make the public aware of their failings and although this information is available on the internet, I feel that members of the public are putting their health at risk by eating at these establishments.

I look forward to this information coming into the public domain at the earliest moment in time. **Mr S Thomas, Barry.**

Tragic loss of the SS Ashbury

IT was with particular interest that I read the article on the Merchant Seamen in your January 24 issue.

In the penultimate paragraph, it referred to the Second Officer who was one of the 42 crew members who lost their lives when the SS Ashbury ran aground in January 1945.

It gave his name as 'James Ivor Morgan'. Actually, his name was Ivor Morgan James and he was the son (not son-in-law) of the Rev William Ingli James, who had been the minister of Bethel Baptist Chapel in Barry.

A most important paragraph in the official report into the founding of the SS Ashbury, which was held in July 1947, states: "Owing to circumstances arising out of a state of war emergency, the vessel was ordered to make a northerly passage around the north of Scotland, although, under normal circumstances, this passage

would not have been attempted at that time of year."

The Reverend James and his wife had eight children – seven boys and one girl – and four of the boys were at one time or another in the Merchant Navy (Hector, Cyril, Ivor and Trevor, my father).

You will realise that Ivor Morgan James was my uncle, and he was survived by his widow, Alma, and his daughter, Jean, both of whom, sadly, are deceased.

All Ivor's siblings have passed away, including his sister Joy. Some of your more mature readers who have resided in the Barry area for many years, especially members of Bethel, may recall this family.

I was born in Barry some four months after my grandfather died and I carry on the family name.

I never had the wish to follow in the family's maritime footsteps from the time I fell into the lake at The Knap at the tender age of three.

William Ingli James, Cardiff.

Memories of the Graf Spee

WITH reference to Garry Parsons' letter in The GEM on January 31, the destroyer that went into the Jessing Fjord after the Altmark was HMS Gossack, not Eskimo.

In the first weeks of the war, the Graf Spee sank nine merchant ships in the South Atlantic.

The captain of the Graf Spee, Langsdorff, classed the crews as civilians, so he took them off their ships before he sank them, not one life was lost.

The officers were kept prisoners on the Graf Spee, the rest of the crews on the Altmark. **AT Bradshaw, Penarth**

Movie at the Memo

MAY I say thank you to the Barry Memo for opening up the curtains to a cinema screen.

It was a very enjoyable few hours watching a film in my home town. With the support of the film-going public of Barry, the frequency of showings will increase, as will the new releases.

M Turnbull, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	03.19	8.3	16.03	8.5
08 Fri	04.33	9.2	17.02	9.3
09 Sat	05.28	9.6	17.54	9.7
10 Sun	06.17	10.1	18.40	10.1
11 Mon	07.02	10.4	19.22	10.2
12 Tues	07.42	10.2	19.57	10.1
13 Wed	08.21	10.3	20.39	9.8
14 Thur	09.01	9.9	21.11	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Jail for Dinas Powys man after cannabis plants search

CANNA-BIS plants, which would have resulted in drugs worth more than £30,000 being sold on the street, were discovered when police searched a house in Dinas Powys, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Milan Pitroda (28) who was renting the property at the time, and who took a part in setting up the operation, was jailed for six

Report by AJ SICLUNA

months. Pitroda, of Wayside Cottages, admitted a charge of producing cannabis.

Judge Eleri Rees said: "You allowed others to use your premises in return for a limited reward."

She said he had assisted in setting up the plants and was not going to be involved in supplying the drug.

She said an aggravating feature was that on three occasions in the

past, Pitroda had been involved in drugs offences.

"This was a small, commercial operation," she said.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on October 12, 2011, police went to the house and in a bedroom found 39 cannabis plants growing.

There was a sophisticated hydroponic and lighting system.

The plants were young, said Mr Pugh, and if a full crop had been harvested, it would have had a potential street value of up to £30,710.

The court made an order that the plants be destroyed.

Carl Williams, for Pitroda, said that the delay in bringing the case to court was because his client had spent some time in hospital.

"It was a small cannabis factory unit, and he didn't play a major role in the operation."

"He would not have known the final yield, but I accept that he helped to set up the operation and allowed the premises to be used for it."

"True, he played a significant role, but it was at the lower range."

The Judge warned Pitroda that if he came before the court again for producing or supplying drugs, sentence would be in years, not months.

Ashaa will be remembered at Barry event

by **TIM CHAPMAN**



ASHAA DAVIS.

'ASHAA'S NIGHT-3' at The Glenbrook Inn on Saturday, February 23, will celebrate the life of a popular Barry woman who died in 2010.

Ashaa Davis was just 23 and recovering in hospital from septicemia when she suffered a brain haemorrhage.

Her mother, Carole Mackintosh, told The GEM that a community gathering remembering her daughter had become an annual event for a very good reason.

"This is the third time we have marked the week of Ashaa's birthday with an event."

"The first anniversary of her birthday was going to be very difficult, so we decided to do something really special – everyone like the idea, and we now do something every year."

"The first year we were at The Ship Hotel, and Billboard Ensemble put on the entertainment."

"There was a trophy in Ashaa's memory for the junior section, and a balloon release off the

Billboard Ensemble and attended Barry Swimming Club. In gymnastics, she represented Wales in Ohio, America.

Ashaa was mum to Ruby-Rae, who is now aged five years old, and worked as a secretary for JA Hughes in Barry and a firm in Cardiff.

The Glenbrook is open as usual for customers on the night, who will be able to enjoy the band. Tickets for Ashaa's Night-3 in the lounge, which include a buffet and prize draw, are £5. The event starts at 7.30pm.

roof at midnight, as we arrived at February 27 – Ashaa's birthday. Money raised went to Billboard Ensemble.

"The next year, we went to The Dolphin. A local band, Dansette, provided entertainment and we released balloons on the prom. Funds were raised for Wish upon a Star, a children's charity."

"This year, we will be at The Glenbrook with a ska band, Too Toned, who'll provide free entertainment."

"Money raised will go to Barry Carnival. It's appropriate because Ashaa was the carnival queen when it was last held in the town."

As a youngster, Ashaa was a talented dancer, swimmer and gymnast. She was a member of

Niamh benefit

LOCAL fundraisers for Barry girl, Niamh Tarran, who has cerebral palsy, have organised a Neil Diamond tribute on Saturday, February 16, at The Dockers, Vere Street, Cadoxton.

Tickets are £5. Contact Emma on 07523 63717 for more information.

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Samantha B

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JAIL FOR GAMBLER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Matters came to light in June when a finance company representative contacted Mrs Parry about an application for a loan which she had not made.

She contacted a relation and discovered that bank statements had been falsified. The bank was contacted and they confirmed that.

Altogether, there were 70 withdrawals. In September, said Mr Hughes, Jones contacted his grandmother and asked her to obtain a loan of £5,500 for him.

She agreed, then withdrew her permission. Jones said he would cancel it, but he didn't. The loan went into her account and the bulk of it was withdrawn by Jones. The bank, said Mr Hughes, had reimbursed Mrs Parry £15,921.

When arrested, Jones accepted what he had done and said he had intercepted her bank statements, replacing them with false statements. He himself estimated he had taken about £20,000.

Barrister David Pinnell said: "This man had a huge weakness – an addiction to gambling which took over his life." He said he had made a real effort to change his behaviour. It had once been an ongoing problem.

He said in the future, he might well re-build the bridges between himself and his parents and others.

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Volunteers hope their funding bids will be successful

A community charity in the centre of Barry is hoping to attract badly-needed funding, so it can continue to provide vital services for local people.

The Drop-In Centre Development Trust (DIC) is based in part of Castleland Community Centre and is run by volunteers, who give their time free.

The manager Mrs Eileen Moore explained: "The drop-in centre provides valuable services to a designated, deprived community working with partner agencies, but does not receive any local funding support."

The centre relies on donations and fundraising, secured with the help of community members and volunteers.

The volunteers provide valuable services that include activity clubs for children; clubs for adults; debt advice; liaison between landlords and tenants; help in communicating with other statutory and support agencies; support for vulnerable adults, and work with families.

DIC together with the Avian Community Business also provide work based training place-

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ments for local people looking to gain employment. Typical of the enthusiastic volunteers are Tanya and Mathew Dee, who give up their evenings to provide activities for local children.

Tanya said: "I'm a CYPIC co-ordinator (Children and Young People in the Community) and help to run the Friday Club for those aged from five to 11 years of age."

"I am also going to help with the new Monday Club for those aged 12 to 16."

"Our clubs are popular with local young people and what we do helps their development as people."

Mathew runs the football club which welcomes boys and girls, regardless of ability, or disability, and in his words "they enjoy it so much, they turn up whatever the weather!"

Another volunteer, Shelley Lodwick, who has moved from Bridgend to Barry sees volunteering as a vocation: "I'm helping with the Friday Club at which children interact with each other during activities and games in a safe environment."

"The staff here are really good and put the chil-

dren first."

Janet Lockwood (89) the chairperson of the trust, said local people appreciated its work and liked the fact that there were people with "familiar and friendly faces" who were close by to help them with problems.

She said: "We've organised jumble sales, Christmas sales and had stalls up at the market to keep things going."

"It would be lovely if we could secure funding."

The volunteers, including Janet, despite her advanced years, regularly leaflet nearby streets to let people know what is going on in the community.

Castleland Community Association has just been given a Welsh Government grant of £108,946 for equipment to complement recent building improve-

ments (financed via the BIG Lottery Fund) but although the DIC provides Castleland with valuable expertise and day to day support, the organisations are totally separate, and the drop in centre has to raise its own funds.

In a period of austerity it is not just services provided by the public sector that are squeezed, the trust is proof that the voluntary sector suffers too.

The Drop-In Centre became a charity in 2009, and benefited from Big Lottery help and Biffaward grants in the past, but that assistance came to an end in 2011.

Mrs Moore still remains cautiously optimistic that things will change: "We hope that funding bids submitted this year will be fruitful and we can continue to provide community services direct within our community for the benefit of everyone."

Health and Diet Club

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry held a very successful free Health and Diet Club, as part of the Ageing Well Project in Vale initiative aimed at the over 50s.

More than 15 people attended the hourly session for a health check and diet advice.

The next monthly session will be held on February 27 (from 11am-12.15pm).

For further information, contact 01446 732385.

Local litter 'top priority' for Gladstone Gladiators



Jane Hutt with the 'Gladstone Gladiators'

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Muddy pathways and icy meadows lead to Michaelston

FOLLOWING weeks of rain then snow, a dry morning with some sunshine was very much appreciated by the seven walkers who joined Penarth and District Ramblers, Geraint and his sheepdog

Patch at the Woodland Trust car park at Michaelston.

From muddy pathways in Caschill Wood, the group trudged downhill to grassy meadows beside the Cadoxton River formed by the confluence of the Bullcroft and Wrinstone brooks further upstream by the old stone bridge below the locally-called salmon leaps in the Cwrt yr Ala valley.

Having re-crossed the river, they entered Michaelston-le-Pit, where the old red square telephone kiosk which was introduced in this country by the GPO in 1936, has been retained and now contains a selection of books to form a mini library.

From the village, the group crossed a large sheep-filled field and a footbridge to emerge near White Farm where a series of icy meadows led them to a quiet lane leading past the ruined Brynwell farm built from local stone.

The interesting feature of the building is a probable medieval cusped lancet window and having been ruined for many years trees are growing up through the roof.

From the lane, the group tramped across a field that was still covered in crisp, white snow to cross a stile which had, thankfully, been repaired by the Vale Council, and into West Hill Wood where slippery paths and a series of steps led uphill into open fields near Leckwith Hill Farm.

After stopping for refreshments the group decided to continue down through Leckwith Woods and underfoot conditions were very tricky in places where large deep pools had formed on top of mud, but having slithered their way through, they exited

onto Leckwith Hill.

They crossed the modern road bridge opened in 1935 by the then Minister of Transport, Leslie Hore-Belisha, as an alternative to the old stone 16th century three-arched medieval bridge which spans the Ely River just to the west of the new bridge.

Forging a successful career in politics as a Liberal MP, Hore-Belisha, during his time as Minister of Transport, reduced the number of road accidents in this country by introducing Belisha beacons at pedestrian crossings, a new highway code and driving tests for motorists.

Part of the Ely Trail which runs parallel to the river led the group

through to Penarth Road, after which they climbed a muddy track that was running with surface water to reach Llandough village, which has Roman roots but is probably best known for Llandough Hospital.

It opened in 1934 and is renowned for its one mile-long main corridor.

Leaving the residential area behind, the group crossed more fields to return to Michaelston.

On February 10, meet at 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for a six-mile moderate walk taking in Ogmere and Dunraven Bay; contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

JOY STRANGWARD

WITH the support of 'Funky Dragon' from the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales, a team of 'Gladiators' from Gladstone Primary School, recently carried out research to find out the key concerns of their fellow pupils.

Litter was a top priority for action, and they have drawn up an action plan to tackle the problem in the playground and local environment.

At a presentation event at Gladstone Primary School on January 25 attended by councillors, parents, community police officers, Jane Hutt AM presented awards to the Gladiators team.

The Vale AM said: "The Gladstone School Gladiators team have excelled in showing the commitment of school pupils to improving their environment."

"They have made an excellent film about their project, showing the outcome of their work and have a clear understanding of citizenship."



**BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI**

GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from local voluntary and not-for-profit organisations seeking financial assistance in 2013/14. Forms are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA. Telephone: (01446) 704920 info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Your constitution and latest audited accounts must accompany the application. New organisations must submit a business plan/budget in place of audited accounts. All applications complying with these criteria will be considered. The submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded.

The Council is unable to consider applications from or on behalf of National Organisations, unless they can demonstrate that their services benefit a significant proportion of the local community.

Applications should be returned to the address given below by or before Friday, 8 March 2013

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KAREN CELEBRATES WITH A SPECIAL CHARITY BALL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She said: "I am meeting with Kirsty Williams AM on February 21, as I know she has done some work in trying to get cyberknife brought to Wales.

"I am also hopeful that the Velindre Cancer Centre will back Karen's Cause.

"We just hope people will continue to support us in any way they can – by donating funds, by donating prizes, by attending our events, or even by holding their own events or contacting us with ideas.

"Tickets for the charity ball we are holding are £30 and include a three-course meal, a reception drink, and live entertainment from Dave Bowen and a DJ.

"We will also be holding a raffle and auction, but if anyone does have prizes they could donate, or wish to purchase tickets, they can contact me on 07703778419, or karencause@hotmail.co.uk."

Local businesses are already getting behind Karen's Cause.

Curtis Shier, of the Gourmet Fish and Chip Shop in Barry, is devoting his takings for the day on February 15 to the cause.



LEFT: Karen (in white) with Karen's Cause supporters.



Wenvoe school opens extension

LAST month, the Vale AM Jane Hutt (on right of picture), attended the official opening of the extension at Wenvoe Primary School.

She reported: "I was very pleased to attend the opening of the new

classroom extension at Wenvoe Primary, which received £237,000 funding from the Welsh Government.

"The pupils were very excited about the opening and sang to the parents and governors, who were thrilled with this new development at Wenvoe School."

Local coastguards in 'bomb on the beach' drama

PENARTH and Barry coastguards responded to a dramatic 999 call to help Chepstow colleagues, after a metal object on a beach turned out to be an unexploded artillery shell.

A fisherman had found a "suspicious lump of metal" at Beachley and called in Chepstow Coastguard, who said it was harmless, but then spotted another object on the beach – a Second

World War seven-inch artillery shell, which had been uncovered by the tide.

It was three inches in diameter and about 14 inches in length.

A spokesman for Chepstow coastguards reported that the artillery shell was later safely destroyed by a Royal Navy bomb disposal team, and that they had been assisted at the scene by colleagues from Penarth and Barry Coastguard.

'Howl' at The Park

BLUES duo, 'Howl', will be playing at The Park hotel on the evening of February 9. The band were recently named as a band to watch in 2013.

HALF TERM FUN ON HIGH STREET

BARRY High Street Traders are putting on a series of events for children during half term.

Vice-chair Kath Pickup reported: "A number of the shops will be putting on different events throughout the week.

"The Little Blue Deli will be putting on something daily at 3.30pm.

"Dr Bob's Balloons is holding a special workshop on Friday. "The Lush Cake Company is also putting on pancake making."

Among the other business involved next week will be Sanctuary Gift Shop, Little Big Shoes, Butterflies and Food for Thought, so get down to High Street for lots of family fun!

St Paul's Church: March 1 deadline

OVER recent weeks the Vale Council has been delivering consultation forms to households in the St. Augustine ward of Penarth, asking for local residents' opinions on the future of St Paul's Church.

Due to the recent bad weather the delivery has been delayed in some areas, and the council says that every house will receive a consultation pack by tomorrow (Friday, February 8).

The original deadline for return was February 22, but this has now been extended to March 1 – to ensure everyone has a chance to respond.

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THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1607 REMEMBERED BY FORUM

SIXTY years to the day after the last major flood on the east coast, Dr Mark Lewis, of the National Roman Legion Museum, gave a talk on the 'Great Flood of 1607' to Barry Men's Forum.

He demonstrated how the height of the sea has

continually risen, since the last Ice Age, and even in the last 100 years, records show a slow increase in spring tide heights.

Despite some suggestions that the cause of the 'Great Flood' could have been a tsunami, he was able to prove that this was not the cause, due to the location of the floods, but that the weather was the actual cause. It had

rained extremely hard for three days before the event, and the day was very clear, which indicates a very low pressure system passed over the area, with the eye of the storm over the Bristol Channel on the day.

One millibar of atmospheric pressure increases the tide height by one centimetre; this, in conjunction with the spring tide, caused the tide to rise to excessive levels causing the flooding.

The devastation flooded over 26 parishes, with the high water mark still being marked in many of the surviving churches.

At the time the local people were not very religious, preferring to play football outside the churches, instead of attending the Christian services.

The newly-appointed Bishop of Llandaf, Rev F Goodson had previously written to the archbishop of his disquiet at the poor morals, and poor attendances at his churches.

After the flood, he proclaimed it was a 'Divine Event' and God's warning for the lack of religious observance.

One church inscription reads: "The Lord of his

mercies grant that we may learn in time to be wise unto our own health and salvation, least this water flood prove but a fore runner unto some fearful calamitous event more general"

Dr Lewis concluded by reassuring members that such an event is estimated to occur only every 200 years, and sea defences have improved so such that a major event is even less likely.

New members are welcome. On Thursday, February 14, at Windsor Road Church Hall, the speaker will be Jeanne Harvey, whose subject will be 'Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall'.

For further information about Barry Men's Forum, contact Peter Westcott on telephone 02920 594881. PMW

£2.4 million windfall from school site sale

THE Vale Council has released information on the sale of the old lower school site at Cowbridge to Taylor Wimpey, which reveals that the sought-after building land made £2,402,575.

The news was revealed on January 28, at a meeting of the Vale Council's Trust Committee.

This showed that the sale price agreed between Taylor Wimpey and the Cowbridge Comprehensive School Trust was £2,512,768.

There were, however, a number of deductions from that sale price.

Sales costs over the three years from start to finish totalled £35,012, and Taylor Wimpey has retained a sum of £75,000, pending a ground inspection report from an independent consultant.

Councillors on the Trust Committee heard a presentation from Sir Thomas Mansel Franklyn Trust. In turn, that body is limited by law in how it can spend the cash.

It has to "provide for special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the local education authority, and promote the education, including social and physical training, of persons who are, or were, pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive and who are in need of financial assistance."

On November 27, the committee met to approve the accounts of the Cowbridge Comprehensive School Trust and, at the time, the trust's investments at year end 2012 were valued at £2,639,804. In the main, this consisted of £548,000 in investments, and land valued at the time at £2,102,395.

In fact, the school trust has now realised £2,402,575 on that land, so its total investment fund value is now approaching £3 million.

The Cowbridge Comprehensive School Trust is required by law to pay over any income made each year to another Cowbridge charity, the

With a fund totalling almost £3 million, a return of three per cent, would generate annual income of £90,000.

The chairman of the Sir Thomas Mansel Franklyn Trust, John Homfray, told THE GEM: "This could be very good news for the trust, but there are a number of details still to be discussed." Philip Irwin

CHERYL JOHNSON Angelic Reiki Master Teacher

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email: cherylsangels@hotmail.co.uk
www.owlmanor.co.uk

If you cannot make either of these days but would like to experience a meditation or healing session then contact Cheryl, this can be accommodated at Owl Manor Guest House on Plymouth Road, Barry.

Consultation on air quality in Penarth

THE Vale Council is holding a consultation on whether to declare an 'Air Quality Management Area' for a section of Windsor Road in Penarth.

The council says it has identified a small section of Windsor Road where nitrogen dioxide emissions from road traffic are likely to exceed prescribed limits to protect health.

If a management area is declared, the council will be required to develop and implement an action plan to improve air quality and reduce pollution.

More information on the consultation can be found on the council's website at www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/air-pollution

The official consultation period ends on Friday, March 8.

Comments can be sent to: Air Quality Management Area consultation, Corporate and Customer Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, FREEPOST SWC2936, Barry, CF63 4GZ.

Barry Yacht Club pipes in the haggis on Scots' special night

MEMBERS of Barry Yacht Club turned Scottish to celebrate Burns Night in style with bag-pipe player, Tim Burrows, from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Sixty-five members and guests attended the haggis feast on Saturday, January 26.

Based at The Pier Head Docks on Barry Island, Barry Yacht Club is regarded as offering the best sea sailing facilities in the Bristol Channel. The club offers various types of membership including sailing, fishing, cadet, or social members.

Barry Yacht Club is a not-for-profit organization and was established in 1928. It currently has

more than 250 members from all parts of the Vale and Cardiff, attracting yachtsmen from as far away as Bristol and Birmingham.

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk by contacting Andy Green on 07815 884 525, or Roger Donkin on 07549 946 629.

GLYNIS PARSONS (BYC social secretary)

The Little Blue Deli

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FIRST AID EXAM HELPS PARENTS - AND FAMILIES



IN BRIEF Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Labour Councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will be holding their next monthly drop-in advice surgery on Saturday, February 9 at the Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, from 11am to 12 noon and no appointment is necessary.

Hall AGM
THE annual general meeting of Celtic Way Community Hall is being held on February 12 at 7pm at the community hall, Celtic Way, Rhosoe.

A FIRST Aid course was recently run as part of the Putting Families First programme at Cadoston School.

It was supported by the Genesis 2 project funded by the European Social Fund and the Welsh Government and all the parents completed the course.

One parent said: "We learnt how to deal with lots of situations, such as choking and collapse."

Another said: "I would feel more confident to help in an emergency now, although I hope one

doesn't occur too soon!"

Cadoston Family and Friends meet every Thursday at the school, and run a very varied programme of events. New members welcome.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB news

The waiting game

IT used to be that holiday snaps took a couple of days to process after you got home. If they were poor pictures, so be it - patience was the order of the day.

When Polaroid cameras came out, a cartoon showed a tourist, having photographed some ancient ruins, complaining about the 30 seconds it took for the picture to develop.

The early digital cameras had a delay between pushing the button and the shutter operating. I have several seascapes because the whales had dived during that delay!

Now cameras are fast enough to take several pictures a second and everyone should be satisfied.

The time between shooting the picture and being able to see the result has been eliminated (with the added benefit that you can usually have another go if you

are not satisfied).

The same can be said about most aspects of computing. But not all. There are still a couple of things that cause some people to complain. Possibly because they do not fully understand what is happening. The helpful boffins have kindly given us the progress bar so that we can see how work is proceeding.

We have all been impatient when waiting for the end of an operation - only to find that the last ten percent of the operation takes a much longer time that we have been led to believe.

Unfortunately, an accurate timing for, say, file copying, is impossible. The number and size of the files being copied must be known, as well as the speed capability of the system components (USB 3.0 is a lot faster than USB 2.0, not to mention that within these classes there are variations in performance speeds).

If you are asking the

system to be doing something else at the same time you will be diverting some of the capacity and reducing the speed that has already been assumed in the calculation.

If you are installing a new programme, you might have to select components for installation as you go along, and the progress calculation has to be adjusted to suit. Surely any indication is better than none at all.

More and more people are using external hard drives to give them more storage capacity. Having become familiar with the quick writing to their internal hard drive, they wonder why they have to wait longer to copy to an external drive.

Again, the boffins are being helpful by allowing the external drive to save energy by not spinning if it is not being used. Then, when needed, it has to 'spin up' to operating speed again before starting work.

This will happen only when the drive has been idle long enough for it to power down automatically. Any delay is simply the price paid to contribute towards saving the planet and reduce your energy bill.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, (7.30pm). Brains trust rescheduled from the cancelled meeting to this one. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

Howard Desmond

CCTV arrests in Barry

POLICE made 10 arrests in Barry during the last week, aided by information provided by the Vale Council's CCTV operators.

The CCTV monitoring team contacted the police 50 times during the week ending February 3.

Police made two arrests in Barry on the January 28, one person was arrested in connection with theft and another for being wanted on warrant.

On January 29, three people were arrested in Barry, two concerning theft, and another person was arrested for allegedly being drunk in charge.

Police arrested one person in connection with theft on January 31. On the same day, police issued three Asbos.

On February 1, one person was arrested in connection with theft.

Two people were arrested concerning assault on February 2, and another person was arrested in connection with a public order offence on the same

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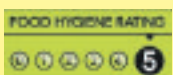
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MIKE INSPIRES WELSH MEDIUM RUGBY PUPILS



LEFT: Welsh star, Mike Phillips, with rugby fans from the two Welsh medium schools.

PUPILS from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg recently welcomed Wales and British Lion rugby star Mike Phillips to the school.

The Welsh scrum half, who plays for French side Aviron Bayonnais, took time out of his schedule to meet and talk to pupils and help inspire them to get involved in sport and lead a healthy lifestyle.

The bilingual event was organised by Peter Griffiths of PG10 Coaching and Sarah Jayne Photography, which also provided the children with an opportunity to learn about Phillips' successful rugby career and take part in a question and answer session with the Wales star.

Mike said: "It was great visiting the schools and helping educate and inspire the pupils to take up sport and lead a healthy lifestyle. I'm pleased I and can give something back to local children and help promote rugby and sport in Wales." **PG**

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A very happy 100th, Alice!



THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, was at Springbank Nursing Home in Barry on January 25, to visit resident Mrs Alice Dalton, who celebrated her 100th birthday, with a party attended by her family.

The Mayor presented Mrs Dalton with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the town council.

CCTV observers trigger arrests

POLICE arrested 12 people in the Vale during the last week in January, aided by information provided by CCTV operators.

The Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team contacted the police 43 times during the week ending January 27. Police made several arrests in Barry on January 23 – including one arrest concerning theft. Another person was arrested who was wanted on warrant, and two people were arrested in connection with possession of drugs with intent to supply.

Police also arrested three people concerning

criminal damage and racial abuse on the same day in Barry.

On January 26, one person was arrested concerning an assault in Llantwit Major and another arrested concerning an assault and possession of Class B drugs in Penarth.

Police made an arrest in connection with animal cruelty, criminal damage and assaulting a police officer in Barry on January 27.

On the same day, police arrested one person on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle and another for alleged drink driving, both in Barry.

OUTREACH CLINIC FOR CRIME VICTIMS

THE Safer Vale Partnership has opened its first outreach clinic for victims and witnesses.

A spokesperson said: "The clinic will be a great resource for anybody affected by anti-social behaviour and hate crime in the Vale, providing general advice and information on the reporting process."

"Since the introduction of the Victims Champion post in June 2012, 11 fully-trained volunteers have been recruited. These volunteers will be available to clients and can offer them support during what can be a very stressful time."

The first outreach clinic will be held on Friday, February 8, at Barry Library, Kings Square, Holton Road, Barry, between 10am and 3pm.

For more information, contact Safer Vale's helpline on 01446 450 200.

XFOR officers issue 38 fines

Local authority support company XFOR issued 38 Fixed Penalty Notices in the Vale, during the week commencing January 28.

XFOR has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering in the Vale.

It is taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning.



The teachers learn more about Cosmeston.

Medieval visit gives teachers ideas for new history lessons

EIGHT Vale teachers joined Cosmeston Rangers at the medieval village, to learn how it can be a powerful resource for teaching children about medieval life.

The teachers were accompanied by experienced guide, Walter the Reeve (aka Ross O'Hennessey) who explained how the village developed, what the buildings were used for and what life was like for the everyday peasant.

Steve Pickering, senior ranger, said: "We are keen to promote and develop the Medieval Village and the teachers had some really interesting ideas on how we can expand on this. We plan

to include many of their suggestions as new activities for future school visits, including new role playing sessions, wattle and daub wall-making, candle making, an archaeology finds workshop and medieval writing skills in our scriptorium!"

The medieval life taster session was run by

Vale Council staff at Cosmeston and the council's school improvement team.

Amanda Gould, Vale Council associate advisor with the school improvement services, commented: "It was such a success and proved so popular that we hope to run another session in February."

Barrivale bridge

BRIDGE results from Barrivale on January 15:

First, Mike Close and Peter Millar, 62.5 per cent; second, Denis Mottram and Ken Hannah, 59.52; third, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas, 55.95. Denis and Ken won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join, telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at their Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **MB**

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YOUNG ORATORS STAR IN LOCAL ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS DEBATES



The competitors in the Youth Speaks competition, which was held in Barry Comprehensive School.

THE Rotary Club of Barry continued its support of the Rotary National Youth programme, designed to develop students' skills, by organising the 2013 Club Youth Speaks competition at Barry Comprehensive School on January 30.

Teams were made up of a chairperson, speaker and a third person to give the vote of thanks. National rules state that a talk must be given as opposed to a debate. Speakers also had to answer a question from a member of the audience to show they understood their chosen topic.

In the junior section, three teams were entered; two from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and one from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School. In the senior section, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive entered one team and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg entered two teams.

The winning junior team comprised Nia Fenn, Lois Aled and Caleb Darwin from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Their chosen topic was, 'Are we clowns to experiment with cloning?'

Prize for the best junior speaker was awarded to Lois Aled; prize for the best chairperson was awarded to Llinos Jones, both from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and the prize for the best vote of thanks was awarded to Kate Roberts, from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

In the senior competition, the team from Bryn Hafren won first place; their chosen subject was 'Political correctness has gone mad,

PC should now RIP!'

Team members were Aimee Delaney, Lissie Wallington and Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

The prize for the best senior speaker was awarded to Lissie Wallington; the prize for best Chairperson went to Aimee Delaney, both from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, and best vote of thanks to Betsan Jones from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

The judges were Terry Brooks, Graeme Milnes and Roger Mundy from Cardiff Speakers' Club. Speaking before the winners were announced, Terry Brooks congratulated all participants, saying that their chosen subjects were well researched and presented, leaving the judges to make some very difficult decisions!

Presenting the prizes, Barry Rotary Club president John Shapland congratulated all competitors and thanked everyone for supporting the event and Barry Comprehensive School for their hospitality.

The winning teams will now go forward to the area final to be held on Tuesday, February 19 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. **JO**

New boss at Bro Radio

THE new station manager at Bro Radio is Gareth Sweeney, who has been acting station manager since October 2012 and presented the very first show when the station launched in March 2009.

Barry Dock volunteers in island exercise



Lifeboats from Penarth, Burnham-on-Sea, Weston-Super-Mare and Portishead – photographed by Nicholas Leach.

VOLUNTEER crew of the Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station took part in an unusual exercise on Sunday (February 3).

The exercise, in which 29 volunteer crew in eight lifeboats met at Flat Holm island, had been planned to take place before Christmas but had been postponed due to poor weather.

Despite the morning's very misty, wet and cold conditions, the exercise between Barry Dock, Penarth, Weston-Super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea, and Portishead lifeboat stations was able to go ahead.

Seven of the eight lifeboats were inshore boats that cannot go to sea in rough conditions. The eighth was the Barry Dock lifeboat station's Trent class all-weather lifeboat.

Crew of the smaller boats were welcomed on board the Trent and given a tour of her facilities. In a search and rescue situation, crews of the

smaller boats might spend time on board the Trent to get out of the elements and warm up for a short time.

The crews took the opportunity to get to know one another. During a multi-vessel search, the Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat would take command of all lifeboats involved, so it is vital that they know the capabilities of each crew and are fully aware of the facilities and features of the boats. A Watch Leader from Swansea Coastguard was also on-board.

Volunteer crew member Dave Phillips said: 'It's important that RNLI stations come together from time to time so that in an emergency situation we can just get on with the job in hand. Each crew member needs continuous training and these multi-station exercises are an infrequent but vital part of the training programme.'

Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition

AN exhibition providing an insight into the Gypsy Roma Traveller community is being held in the Vale as part of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The exhibition, at Art Central Gallery, Town Hall, King Square, Barry, which is based on the Holocaust Memorial Trust's national theme of 'Building a Bridge', will run until Saturday, February 23.

The exhibition reveals the experiences of the Gypsy Roma Traveller community during the Second World War, their way of life, traditions and how they are sometimes still discriminated against today.

Working with the

Romani Culture and Arts Company, the Ethnic Minority Traveller Achievement Service in Cardiff, local historian Tom Clemett and the GRT community includes real-life stories, artefacts and even a small Vardo (a traditional Romani Gypsy caravan) on display.

Tom Clemett has provided sepia photographs of the Romani Gypsies, who settled in the Barry area in the late 1800s to early 1900s, showing how they lived in their Vardoes and Bendy Tenets. Their descendants still live in the area today.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Coun Eric Hacker, held a reception to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, which

is held annually on January 27, to mark the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

At the reception, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, who is also the council's Equalities Champion, read out the seven parts of the 'Statement of Commitment'.

Presentations were given by Isaac Blake, director of the Romani Culture and Arts Company, and Teleri Gray, a Romani historian, artist and storyteller.

Isaac Blake said: "This is a contemporary look at the history of the Romani Gypsy tradition and so helps to create an awareness of the background, as well as the situation of the community today."

STEREOTYPES

"It will balance out some of the negative media preconceptions and challenge myths and stereotypes."

The Vale Council's arts development officer, Tracey Harding, said: "I am delighted to be working with the Gypsy Roma Traveller community."

"Our aim is to challenge people's perceptions and create an understanding of how others may live differently, but that we are essentially all the same, all human, and should be treated as such."

The gallery's opening hours are 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free.

Protest march to hospital

A MARCH will take place through the streets of Bridgend tomorrow (Friday) as campaigners highlight fears that services at the Princess of Wales Hospital, including the A and E provision, may be downgraded.

Campaigner Mel Hughes said: "Residents of Bridgend and the surrounding areas need to make their feelings known."

"We will assemble at Newbridge Field at 2pm, and march to the Princess of Wales Hospital at 2.15pm."

He claimed: "The downgrading of the Accident and Emergency Department at the

Princess of Wales Hospital would result in longer journeys to other hospitals for people with acute injuries or illnesses."

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board has emphasised no decisions have been made with regard to Princess of Wales Hospital.

Three hospitals – the Princess of Wales in Bridgend, the Royal Glamorgan at Llantrisant, and the Prince Charles at Merthyr Tydfil – are in line to become one of two regional centres of health in a potential reorganisation of services.

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BOMB SHELTER REBUILT AT HERITAGE CENTRE

VOLUNTEERS at the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre have rebuilt a wartime bomb shelter as centre-piece of the Frontline Glamorgan exhibition.

Barry at War group chairman Ade Pitman explained: "Our Frontline Glamorgan exhibition seeks to educate visitors about life on the Home Front during the Second World War.

"It is a period of history that is not only studied at school, but is still in the memory of many of our older generation, making it an ideal subject for fostering intergenerational links.

"By rebuilding a Second World War Anderson shelter within the centre, visitors can see what it would have been like to sleep in such a cold, damp tin shed during the Nazi air raids.

"My mother lived in Penarth until 1940, when because of these, the family moved to Devon. She still talks of the distinctive sound that the Nazi bombers made when flying over.

"Eventually our Anderson shelter will have an audio sound-

track to help visitors to understand what it was like to be on the front-line in your own home."

Anderson Shelters were designed to accommodate up to six people, and were issued free to all householders who earned less than £250 a year. This is about £12,000 a year today. It was a cheap and relatively secure home shelter.

In Barry, by May 1940, 3,508 shelters had been delivered, of which it was believed that 300 had been constructed.

Ade continued: "Because of their robustness, many Anderson shelters still survive, having been converted into sheds after the war.

"This is what happened to our example, which is why it was in such good condition when it was kindly donated to the centre by Mr and Mrs Robertson of Barry.

"Our volunteers dismantled the building, and after restoration they have rebuilt the shelter exactly how it would have been, including a set of bunk beds.

"We're now looking for those items that would have made sleeping in the shelter a little more pleasant, particularly a 1940s heater.

"We'd also like to hear from anyone who remembers spending their nights in an Anderson Shelter, and from people who still have one of these fascinating Home Front relics in their garden, so we can create a map of them across the region.

"You can record these and any other wartime memories using our equipment at the Heritage Centre."

The Glamorgan

Wartime Heritage Centre located at the Barry Island Tourist Railway, Barry Island station, is open again on Sunday, February 10 from 11am until 3pm. Admission is free.

You can find out more about the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at the website www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk or by calling Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Can you give Seren a home?

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A good chase round the field with a tennis ball is usually top of the list, and then a good cuddle with lots of licks.

She is looking for an owner who won't let her get too big for her boots, and she could live with children of around eight years or older.

Seren has been with us for some time, as she was receiving training, but has done so well with her carers that we think she is more than ready to get the home she deserves!

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Vale Council reviews XFOR performance – and looks to make changes in the future

THE Vale Council is planning to ask XFOR, the company employed to hand out fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling, to make some changes in the way it operates in the Vale.

The decision came about after a planned six-month review of the company's performance was brought before the cabinet of the Vale Council. XFOR still has a further six months to run of its 12-month trial.

The review confirmed that a number of complaints made by Vale residents in the pages of The GEM were well founded.

The director of visible services and housing advised that XFOR had started the service with a total of four enforcement officers, plus one administrative officer, but during the trial, the company had experienced staff turnover issues and at times had operated with only two staff, plus the administrative officer. This meant that a reduced number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued.

The review said that, as a commercial company, XFOR needed to achieve a minimum number of 50 FPNs per week to break even.

This resulted, said the report, in their "initial pri-

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

ority being targeted towards the most prevalent types of litter offences" to hit that target.

The cabinet members were told that assurances had been given by XFOR's senior management that once their officers had reached the minimum number, they were then available to carry out any patrols as directed by the council.

Complaints had been made to The GEM that town centre smokers were being singled out, because they were an easy target.

The review supported this view, saying "...it would be true to say that the need to obtain a minimum quota of FPNs had resulted in a disproportionate focus on high footfall areas such as town centres and shopping areas targeting littering, and more specifically, smoking related litter."

The review said, however, that XFOR had also been supportive of patrolling areas such as playing fields when requested to do so by council officers.

On the subject of discarded cigarette stubs, the review said that this was the most common type of littering, and that a Keep Wales Tidy survey had found such litter on 84 per cent of streets, while dog fouling was only present on 11 per cent.

The review acknowledged, however, that the public did not necessarily see cigarette stubs as the main priority.

It was noted that overall, the reaction of the vast majority of residents and the press to the trial had been very positive. Apart from a number of people who had received a FPN, no formal complaints had been received by the Vale Council, and only one resident had sought a meeting with officers to discuss concerns.

The report went on: "Whilst there had been some allegations of inappropriate or aggressive behaviour by XFOR officers, video footage taken on their personal CCTV body cameras had shown this to be unfounded in most cases."

"The council received a total of 35 written complaints that FPNs were inappropriately issued though only a small number of the complaints had resulted in the FPN being rescinded."

"It was necessary to waive possible court action on medical or health grounds, technical or

administrative issues or, unacceptable behaviour on the part of XFOR officers on 22 occasions in total (up to the end of month 5)".

The report said that XFOR were on target to reach the 12-month target of 3,000 FPNs, having issued around 1,000 in the first four months.

At the moment, 59 per cent of those receiving an FPN have paid up. The review says that at this rate, the council will make a small loss, although this may be covered when those who have not paid are taken to court.

The report says: "The first of the prosecution files had been sent to the council's legal department (70 cases) and the first court hearing took place on December 6, 2012. The offender had been found guilty in their absence and fined £237.40."

The review went on to say that there was therefore no reason why XFOR should not be permitted to complete their trial term, although officers would need to work more closely with them to ensure that any areas of concern that may be raised by residents, including the lack of dog fouling enforcement, were given greater priority.

A similar problem in Blaenau Gwent had led to the council entering into a separate agreement for XFOR to provide an extra two dedicated dog control enforcement officers, paid at £20 per hour (£320 per day in total) to tackle dog-related issues including dog fouling.

However, even with this dedicated resource, XFOR advised that 'Dog fouling FPNs' had only totalled three during the 10 months that this additional service had been in operation.

It was noted that dog fouling offences were notoriously difficult to enforce due to a number of reasons. One of these being the problem of linking the location of the offence to the dog responsible and its owner.

Also, experience had shown that the majority of irresponsible dog owners immediately changed their behaviour when they note the presence of XFOR staff.

The Leader of the Council, Coun Neil Moore, said that having spoken to the local Chief Superintendent, he had been advised that the presence of XFOR was working as a deterrent, particularly as the officers carried small cameras and that people were aware they may be caught on CCTV.

The director of visible services has also written to the managing director of XFOR, asking for a number of changes.

These include increased dog fouling patrols, possibly done by staff in plain clothes, and evening patrols to target littering offences at fast food outlets and public houses.

The council would also like patrols on roads to schools, with children being approached and warned if littering, although this should only take place with agreement with the Council and the headteacher of the school concerned and should be accompanied by an educational awareness raising programme.

The council would also like XFOR to do more in areas of the Vale other than Penarth and Barry.

SNOW PLEA FOR ELDERLY

THE snow has gone for the time being; hopefully, we have seen the last of it, but if it should arrive again, would it be possible for Rhose residents to get shovelling and clear the pavements?

put down salt afterwards. We pedestrians have had a hard time slipping and sometimes losing our footing and falling down.

Have a care for the pensioners who normally do their shopping in the village and were housebound, too scared to leave their homes for fear of a fall.

(Name and address supplied)

Not only that, but also

PACT meetings

DINAS POWYS PACT at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, on February 11 at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at 28 Coychurch Rise, Barry, on February 12 at 7pm.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY PACT at Pendoylan School, on February 14 at 7.45pm.



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TALES FROM THE VALE

Flouting the Ravens

This article, in what *The GEM* hopes will be a regular series, is taken from the book 'The Vale of Glamorgan, Scenes and Tales among the Welsh', and the explanatory notes are by Angharad Wynne.

The observations were made in the early 1800s by an anonymous Welshman, who was known to lawyers in Lincoln's Inn, London.

He was described as "a tall, solitary old gentleman who visited his native Vale of Glamorgan every long vacation".

His notebook was published in book form in 1839 after his death, and is still available.

LOCAL folklore is deeply embedded in landscape. This entry in the notebook tells of a mysterious cave on the Vale moors in which there is hidden a hoard of gold, guarded by ravens...

These cave guardians are, however, no ordinary ravens. It is said that "nobody could face those ravens, and that there would be, to begin with, no small thundering and growling along the sky before he would get far into the cavern".

A "swaggering Brecknockshire drover" staying at a local inn hears tell of this cave and decides to set out to 'flout the ravens' and find the treasure. After much bravado and swagger, he and a party of local men set out for the Ogov Kigvrain, a Welsh name which translates as Cave of Ravens.

One among the party is Davy, nephew to the notebook's author. He returns after some hours to the inn, somewhat disturbed by the experience, and relates the story of how the cave seekers were hampered by mysterious, thick mist; how flocks of sheep and mountain goats follow behind them. Once,

the silence of the moorland and thick mist was broken by a terrible screech they attribute to "Gwrach y Rhibryn – the Hag of the mountain drizzle", which the men take as a bad omen.

Eventually, the party arrive at Ogov Kigvrain. It is described as being "surrounded with a black stunted brushwood, and some pieces of rock, besides a few old oaks that have struggled to grow there, but have all their branches, after many contortions, tending downwards".

Five cart-ropes are tied together, and the drover secures one end about his waist, in case he would need to be pulled out. He takes a candle and lantern and silently enters the cave. Little by little, the men outside let out the rope, waiting for some catastrophe.

Before they reach the end of the rope, a low growl of thunder is heard in the distance. It comes

nearer and the atmosphere about the cave grows "more dark and appalling". With that, cracks of thunder break overhead and lightning flashes. It is followed by a loud shriek echoing through the cavern, heralding the re-emergence of the drover, "pale, aghast, horror-struck!"

We are not told what the drover sees or experiences in the cave, and it seems that over time, Ogov Kigvrain and its buried treasure have been forgotten. If you know where it is, please let us know.

Are you inspired by the Tales from the Vale? Would you like to take an active part in keeping the heritage of the rural Vale alive? If so, Creative Rural Communities may be able to help.

For further information and to discuss your ideas contact: Helen Blackmore, Creative Rural Communities, on 01446 704828, or Email: hblackmore@valeofglamorgan.org.uk

Flood relief concert

ST DONAT'S ancient church was badly affected by the recent floods, which swamped much of the lower part of the Atlantic College campus.

The gateway to the beach front looked like a sluice gate from Niagara and the swimming pool area was totally inundated. Other parts of the college buildings also suffered from the inrush of water.

The church, dating back to Norman times, was partially flooded and the brand new heating system badly affected.

To raise funds for replacement of the boiler, a special concert – Love to Sing! – is to be held on

Sunday, February 17, in the Glass Room of the Atlantic College Arts Centre, at 3pm, with a sing-along led by the Colhughkelele Band, followed by refreshments.

The second half of the programme will consist of a presentation of Celtic and original music by the Vallhalla Music Group of Llantwit Major.

Tickets at £5 are available from Nickleby's Bookshop, on the door, or by calling 01446 792797.

It is hoped that many local residents will support this special event, which will combine the fun of singing favourite popular songs and the pleasure of hearing some fine original music in the Celtic tradition. Robert Smith

Denzel tries, but can't make this dull drama take Flight

ROBERT Zemeckis has always been a director who knows what the public want, from *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* to the *Back To The Future* trilogy.

Having championed motion-capture film-making with *The Polar Express*, *Beowulf* and *A Christmas Carol* (only to see friend Steven Spielberg really run with the technology with *Tintin*), Zemeckis returns to live-action with *Flight*.

It follows airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Denzel Washington) who manages to land his plane after a mid-air catastrophe and save the lives of those on board.

Hailed a hero, Whitaker's world starts falling in when it is discovered that when the accident occurred, he was drunk in charge of the plane, and as events unfold, Whitaker's heroism is called into question...

From Ray Milland in *The Lost Weekend* to Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*, addiction has sparked some fine big screen performances. Denzel Washington's entry in

Flight sees the actor offer a wonderful performance that makes the film soar.

However, the rest of the film is a mish-mash that fails to really take flight (ironically), a dull piece enlivened only by the lead performance.

While Robert Zemeckis' return to live-action has been warmly greeted, the director seems on unsteady ground here, the film visually well shot but poorly-paced and lacking in narrative drive.

There are moments of visual style that are superbly done, in particular the plane crash that is a tense, slowly-built set-piece that feels scarily realistic (nervous fliers look away now) and delivers plenty of spectacle, but from there on the film loses its identity, trying to marry the themes of courtroom drama and study of addiction but with both story strands not connecting particularly well.

The film tries to make points about the nature of heroism, the shady dealings of big business and how addiction can slowly destroy from within without realising it, but pays only lip service to these themes, the overall tone



by GARETH JAMIESON

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willing him to do the right thing.

It is a turn that conveys the dark side of dependency delivered with no small amount of quality by the actor.

Around him are strong actors with characters that don't really offer much.

Kelly Reilly impressing in a curtailed role as a fellow addict, Don Cheadle as the lawyer assigned to Whitaker and John Goodman, who scene steals in his two short bursts, as a drug dealer close to Whitaker.

Washington aside though, *Flight* is far too ponderous and muddled to really hit home; aside from the starkness of the lead performance the rest of the film feels too slow and cumbersome to engage.

VERDICT – A weak return to the live-action director's chair from Robert Zemeckis, *Flight* is a film that is made watchable by Denzel Washington alone, whose performance is powerful and engaging.

Apart from his lead turn there is little else to recommend this funeral-paced film. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995), *Training Day* (2001).

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Australian pilot died in wartime Spitfire crash

OTHER readers will be aware of recent GEM letters about wartime Spitfire crashes in the Vale. This month's Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats parish magazine carries the following article.

Seventy years ago this month, on February 6, 1943, a Spitfire crashed in the fields below Pendoylan, killing the 19-year-old Australian pilot, Flying Officer Fleming.

He was buried in the military part of Llantwit Major Cemetery, and the event is commemorated by a plaque recently presented to St Cattwg's



The crash site.

church.

Neville Alexander Thomas Fleming was a pilot in 53 Operational Training Squadron. The squadron was formed at Heston in early 1941 to train fighter pilots and moved to Llandow in that summer.

On April 7, 1942, the unit was the first to be based at the new satellite

airfield at Rhoose. On the day of the crash, Fleming was flying aircraft number N3221. He had taken off from Llandow that morning with two other officers on a training flight.

After an hour of formation flying, the leader, Flt Lt Plagis, landed and instructed the remaining two pilots to carry out 'local flying' and land after 90 minutes.

The second pilot landed safely, but Fleming failed to return and no reply was received when he was called up on the radio.

Later, a report was received that a Spitfire had crashed and burned about seven miles north east of the base.

It had broken up in the air, possibly after having touched the ground while low flying, before climbing away and disintegrating.

Neville Fleming was



Flying Officer Neville Fleming.

born on April 22, 1923, in Townsville, Queensland, and enlisted in Brisbane on August 17, 1941. The Townsville Daily Bulletin of Wednesday, February 17, 1943, carried the following obituary.

"Mr and Mrs T F Fleming, of Kingaroy, late of Mary Street, West End, Townsville, have been advised that their son, Pilot-Officer Neville Fleming, has been killed in action. The late Pilot-Officer Fleming was only 19 years of age. He attended the Townsville West State School and, after school, joined the Main Roads Commission and joined the RAAF from Brisbane.

"The young airman was a grandson of Mrs A Fardon and a nephew of Mr and Mrs G F Watson, Church Street, West End."

Phil Glanville, Pendoylan.



The grave of Flying Officer Fleming.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Out and About with The GEM

CS Lewis talk in Penarth

THE author CS Lewis is perhaps best known for his *Narnia* series of children's books, but was also a prolific writer on Christianity.

To mark the 50th

Church bazaar

LAST week's GEM referred to a bazaar at Crossway Methodist Church to raise funds for the church roof.

The date supplied was Tuesday, February 11, at 2pm.

The GEM has now been asked to point out that the bazaar will take place on Tuesday, February 12, at 2pm.

anniversary of his death, Rev Dr Mark Dimond of All Saints Church, Penarth, is hosting a Lent talk and discussion series based on Lewis's Christian writings.

The series of four talks begins on Wednesday, February 20 at the gallery inside All Saints, with sessions at either 12pm-2pm (bring packed lunch) or 7.30pm-9pm.

Topics are as follows:
February 20: 'Pain';
February 27: 'Joy';
March 6: 'Salvation';
March 13: 'Love'.

Admission is free, with tea and coffee available. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk

Valeways guided walks

PLEASE note you may encounter stiles, uneven surfaces, steep section or soft, wet ground on some walks. Walks last for 60-90 minutes, except the coffee shop strollers – an easy walk which is accessible to all.

Today (February 7) at 10.30am, coffee shop strollers, starting at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On February 10 at 2pm, coastal path, starting at Penarth cliff top car park.

Noson Scrabble Cymraeg Ty Cadog

A WELSH-language Scrabble evening will be held at the Windsor Arms, Penarth on Friday, February 8, from 7.30pm.

Croeso i bawb! All welcome! Those who don't yet speak Welsh, will find they can form a surprising number of words from familiar place-names. Llan, pen... and so forth. It's often the absolute beginners who win at this game!

A spokesperson said: "Come along to demonstrate your skill and make new friends. If you happen to have a set of Welsh Scrabble in the house – with those

useful little *ll* and *ch* tiles for the trickier Welsh words – bring it along!"

There is no charge for the night but a collection will be held for the Ty Cadog campaign to establish a ganolfan Gymraeg in the Vale.

For further information, visit www.tycadog.org.

Vale AM's surgery

JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, will be holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, February 8) from 5pm-7pm, in Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, CF62 7EH.

Councillors' advice

Labour councillors for Castletand Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery this Saturday, February 9, at the Drop-In Centre, Castletand Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, between 10.30am and 12pm. No appointment necessary.

Contact Coun Chris Elmore on 01446 450 007, or 07967 506 116.

Support group's next meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, February 12, from 11am to 1pm.

Telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

Steamer talk

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, February 12 in Kynance Hall at 7.30pm, with an illustrated talk by Terry Silverster on the Waverley paddle steamer.

Administration fee £3 for non-members, £1.50 for members, charged at the door. All welcome.

Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513524.

Spinning talk

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers meets on February 14 in Kynance Hall, Dinas Powys, at 7.30pm, to hear a talk on Spinning wheels by Jill David.

Members £3, visitors £5. For further details, ring Kirsten Gable (01443 650336), e-mail kirstengable@gmail.com or [welshkirsten.com](http://www.welshkirsten.com) on ravelry.

WHAT'S ON & WHERE

Cruse meeting

CRUSE Bereavement Service have started a friendship group meeting once a month at the community room at Barry Fire Station. The next group meeting is on February 15 (1pm-2.30pm).

Meet Cruse volunteers Linda Rees and Angela Williams for a coffee and others who have also suffered bereavement.

Love to Sing!

ON Sunday, February 17, at 3pm in the glass Room, the Arts Centre, Atlantic College, the Colhughkelele Band and Valhalla Players will perform a concert of popular songs plus

a special programme of Celtic and original folk music.

Tickets £5, to include refreshments, can be purchased from Nickleby's Bookshop; pay at the door or telephone 01446 792797.

All proceeds will be for the St Donat's Church heating fund.

Church concert

FOLLOWING the very successful choral evening in December, St Mary's Church, Bonvilston, welcomes Barry Male Voice Choir on February 22.

Tickets are priced at £6.50 with all funds raised going towards re-wiring of the church.

The ticket price includes refreshments of wine and cheese after the concert, which starts at 7pm.

Call Rita Price (01446 781688), Viv Hayes (01446 781291)

or Paul Fisher (01446 781686).

Seafarer's concert

THE Cardiff Committee for Seafarers UK is holding a concert featuring a Royal Marine Band and Pendyrus Male Voice Choir on March 17 in Barry Memorial Hall.

The charity helps all seafarers in need, merchant seamen, fishermen and families.

Contact <http://www.seafarers-uk.org/>

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In Business Update

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is that the disease is preventable by using a simple worming product.

Please contact the practice for more details on 01446 700472.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our excellent veterinary nurses, Miss Victoria Sully, on qualifying as a registered veterinary nurse.

We are all so proud of her hard work and outstanding achievement, and wish her every success for her future within the profession.

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(Elio Leo, left, & Nick Renwick, right)

It's not just Waitrose who have moved into Cowbridge. Two architects are combining their operations and have moved into a conversion in the Old Hall. Nick Renwick and Elio Leo who first worked in an office together in the 1980's and then went their separate ways have now decided to pool their resources and work together again.

Nick with his conservation and planning experience will be concentrating on special sites throughout the Vale, Wales and West of England; Elio will bring his Italian flare to bear on these and also more commercial projects. Both have won awards for projects in the past so expect some interesting buildings in both new and old materials to the highest design and energy standards.

For a wealth of both local & international experience in innovative and traditional design contact:

Nick Renwick: 07713 212438 Erenwick@totalise.co.uk
Elio Leo: 07866 313243 Elioaleo@gmail.com

Old Hall, Studio 6, (Chartered Architects),
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NEW FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

MARIE CURIE Cancer Care has teamed up with solicitors across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, to provide a free Will writing service for three months.

Seven firms are working in partnership with Marie Curie to offer people aged 55 years or over, the opportunity of having a simple basic Will written free.

Gifts left in people's Wills are the single largest source of voluntary funding for Marie Curie. These gifts are vital to

ensure that Marie Curie Nurses can continue to provide free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes and in its Cardiff and Vale hospice.

Phae Comber-Jones, Legacy Advisor for Marie Curie, said: "Marie Curie Cancer Care has chosen to pay a discounted legal fee for the writing of simple Wills, and whilst there is no obligation to leave a gift to Marie Curie Cancer Care in your Will, our hope is that people will choose to do so."

The following law firms are taking part:

Vale Solicitors (Barry and Llantwit Major); Passmores Solicitors (Barry and Cardiff); Alan Simons and Co (Penarth); Leo Abse & Cohen (Cardiff); Morgans Select

Limited (Cardiff); and Access Legal from Shoosmiths (telephone service).

The scheme is running until April 8, and appointments must be booked by that date.

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£403,000 GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

THE 2nd/4th Barry Scout Group and Castleland Community Association in the Vale of Glamorgan are set to benefit from more than £403,000 of funding from the Welsh Government's com-

munity facilities and activities programme (CFAP).

The 2nd/4th Barry Scout Group will receive £294,298 to rebuild the Witchill community hall, while Castleland Community Association will receive £108,946 for improvements to the local

Centre. The community facilities and activities programme offers grants to local projects that improve buildings for use by the local community and help make Welsh communities a better place to live.

Under this latest funding round, 44 organisations across Wales will share over £7.6 million of Welsh Government funding for projects aimed at regenerating the local area.

HUB

Carl Sargeant said: "These grants are not simply about improving buildings.

"Local clubs and centres can be the hub of the community where people, young and old, get together

and enjoy social activities. Whether a small or large amount, CFAP funding has a beneficial impact upon Welsh communities and the day to day lives of local people.

PLEASED

"That's why I'm pleased to see so many local groups and volunteers taking matters into their own hands and applying for grants to make their centre a better place for the whole community to enjoy."

The programme was launched in 2002 and to date has funded 875 projects totalling over £100 million.

The latest bidding round will fund 44 projects totalling £7,632,816.97 over two financial years.

'It's the House of Pantomime!'

SIR JOHN MAJOR, the former Prime Minister, has nailed it: "The House of Commons was excellent training for pantomime" he says, praising ex-Conservative MP Ann Widdecombe, who has played in panto.

For years, I have been searching for a simile, and there it is: for 'House of Commons', read 'House of Pantomime' ... perfect!

Thank you, Sir John, a real googly (his favourite sport being cricket).

GEM reader Christopher Short, Barry

Call for Vale Council to give the facts on local school closures

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council is being asked to bring forward an announcement about possible school closures, as rumours sweep the Vale.

Last week, The GEM reported that an announcement on a school re-organisation programme would be made in early March.

A major factor in the reorganisation was Welsh Government advice that the overall school system in the Vale should not have too many surplus places.

Since then, there has been speculation that as many as three schools in the Vale could be earmarked for closure.

At Llanfarc Primary School, a meeting called to review the Vale's new school admissions policy (see article below) will now, after requests from parents, also address the issue of school closures.

The chair of governors at the school, Jill Davies, told The GEM: "Following the article that appeared in The GEM detailing proposals for restructuring schools and mentioning possible school closures, we received a number of queries and concerns from parents and the local community."

"We are holding a meeting with parents today (Thursday, February 7) at 6.30pm, to hear their views and plan our response."

Llanfair Primary School held a meeting last night (Wednesday) about the school admissions policy, but The GEM understands that

parents were planning to raise the schools re-organisation issue as well.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "There are rumours and counter rumours that are not helping."

"The local authority needs to advise parents and teachers of their plans. Just telling a selected few is not appropriate."

"I have received a number of calls and e-mails from worried parents. This situation is unacceptable."

He added: "It is important that the Vale Council understands that the presence of a school can often be the heart of the community."

"Successful schools need to be allowed to expand and the ones that have shown improvement should be encouraged."

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "A report suggesting changes to how schools are organised in the Vale will be considered by the county council's cabinet on March 4."

"The Vale Council is keen to reassure residents that the report only makes proposals, and any future changes to schools in the Vale will be the subject of extensive consultation with parents and other stakeholders."

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for chil-

dren's services at the council, said: "The report will recommend a number of changes to how schools are organised in the Vale to make sure we have the right places for the future and to make the best use of our resources."

"The proposals take into account the advice of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee's 'School Places Review Group', and will involve a number of changes affecting several schools across the Vale."

"The Welsh Government recommends that there should be no more than 10 per cent surplus school places."

"As at September 2012, the Vale had 14.74 per cent surplus places in its primary schools, which ties up funding that could be better spent on teaching and learning."

"In some areas, there is increased demand for school places as a result of new housing development, which means it has been necessary to review catchment areas in parts of the Vale."

Coun Elmore continued: "The primary aim of the proposals is to continue to improve education standards in all the Vale's schools for our current and future pupils."

"The proposals, if implemented, would result in savings in the region of £695,000, which will be reinvested in schools to ensure we meet this aim."

"Of course, any changes will be the subject of extensive consultation."

A Welsh Government spokesperson confirmed that surplus places was an issue of concern, saying: "As we've said previously, surplus places, where these are leading to a waste of resources, need to be tackled urgently."

"Where schools can be organised more efficiently and effectively, local authorities need to take decisive action. The reduction of surplus school capacity is not an end in itself."

"Any proposals for change, including school organisation proposals, should contribute to the provision of schools which deliver the best possible educational experiences for children and young people."

Alun Cairns added: "I have no doubt that there will be opposition to the Vale Council's plans, and will do all I can to support the parents and teachers."

"I would ask them to contact me, if they think I can help."

"Some schools are organising meetings to brief parents, while others are not."

Vale primary schools could be stripped of their 'feeder' status

A FIERCE debate is likely after the Vale Council started a consultation exercise that could end with the dropping of the present system of primary schools which act as 'feeders' for certain secondary schools.

Under the present system, parents can determine which secondary school their child goes to by making sure the child is in a 'feeder' school.

For example, a parent who lives outside the catchment area for C o w b r i d g e Comprehensive, can place their child in one of the school's feeder schools, and at the moment be fairly confident that the child will have their secondary education in Cowbridge.

The feeder schools for Cowbridge are: Llanfarc, Llanfair, Llangan, Llanannor C-in-W, Pendoylan C-in-W, Peterston-super-Ely C-in-W, St Bride's Major

C-in-W, St David's Colwinston C-in-W, St Nicholas C-in-W, and Y Bont Faen.

In the eastern Vale, the feeder primary schools for Stanwell Comprehensive, for example, are Albert, Evenlode, Sully and Victoria.

The same principle applies in Llantwit Major and Barry.

The proposals, which will not affect children currently in year-6, mean that parents would have to send their child to the secondary school in their catchment area – regardless of which primary school the child had attended.

A consultation letter distributed to parents says that, in the event of a school being oversubscribed, then catchment area is already used as a way of prioritising places at the moment, and the change will simply reinforce this.

The letter also says that the present feeder school system "causes imbalances within primary and secondary

schools that puts added pressures on primary schools with links to certain secondary schools – and conversely has a detrimental effect on other primary schools."

It also makes the point that the majority of local authorities do not use a feeder school system, but rely on catchment area.

However, parents in Llanfarc Primary School, told The GEM that the governors were meeting to discuss the new school admissions policy.

Also, a meeting of parents took place last night, after The GEM went to press, at Llanfair School, where the same issue was on the agenda.

Health Challenge teams up with Nest

AS part of Health Challenge Vale, residents who find it hard to heat their homes are being invited to 'talk to Nest' on Tuesday, February 12, between 9am and 3pm, at Barry Market, in Holton Road.

Nest provides all householders in Wales with advice via a Freephone number on saving energy, as well as making sure people are on the best fuel tariff for them and explaining whether they're entitled to any benefits to boost their income.

To find out if you are eligible for Nest, and for more information about the scheme, go come along to the event, or contact Freephone 0808 808 2244 and speak to one of the Nest advisors.

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LIKE adults, children can suffer emotional or psychological/cognitive problems from time to time.

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Local hypnotherapist, Sue Pitman practises

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Studies show children (seven to 17) respond positively to hypnosis and talking therapy, which Sue combines with cognitive behavioural therapy and NLP techniques, focusing on the child's solution.

For more information, call Sue on 07795 964066 or see www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk.

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Helping children focus on a bright new future

POOOR eyesight can have a significant effect on children's ability to learn and on their behaviour – yet often goes unrecognised by teachers, parents and by children themselves – over a million children will return to school with poor vision.



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A FREE SIGHT TEST may give every child the ability to see clearly, learn effectively and fulfil their **CAREER.. ASPIRATIONS**

For appointments: 01446 400015
Find out more: www.jonesandjones.org.uk/back-to-school

10 High Street, Barry CF62 7DZ

A free sight test may give every child the ability to see clearly, learn effectively and fulfill their career aspirations. Up to one million children in the UK currently have an undetected vision problem. (Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSP 2009 School Census 0-12 year olds).

Research shows that around 20 per cent of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem – that's one in five children. (Professor David Thomson, City University, London).

Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. (Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009).

A total of 84 per cent of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school. (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009).


At Jones & Jones, proper sight test is free for all children under the age of 16. Why not book an appointment for your children today?

For appointments, call 01446 400015, or visit us online at www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

BARRY MUSIC SHOP EXTENDS SPECIAL DEALS



THE SPECIAL MUSIC SHOP in the Vale of Glamorgan!
The Barry Music Shop has just started their 15th Year of trading in Holton Road - and are pleased to welcome customers old and new!

We are stockists of Professional Instruments for both new and seasoned players!

Guitars of all types, Drums & Percussion
Keyboards & Digital Pianos - Woodwind
Harmonicas - Brass - Accessories - Pro-Audio

In fact there is very little we do NOT sell!
All our staff are musicians and audio technicians, who are able to offer free friendly advice and help to assist you.

We Stock ALL Music Books used in Schools
Find us on Facebook facebook.com/TheBarryMusicShop
see all our special offers and sale items plus demo videos and other fun stuff!

Expert In Shop Guitar Repair Service
Pro-Audio Repairs and Servicing

JPL 267 Holton Road, Barry (Weston Hill End) Tel: 722711
www.jplsound.com

IF you were not lucky enough to have received a new instrument for Christmas, now is the right time to purchase one for yourself, while prices are still very attractive.

At the Barry Music Shop, we still have many special deals running. Although intended for the Christmas period, we have decided to run them until the end of February.

One of our top manufacturers of guitars – CORT, have actually reduced their retail prices right across their range – so in effect, customers can now purchase these superb guitars at approximately £70-£90 cheaper!

These price reductions relate to nearly 25 per cent off most of the range – a very attractive saving.

During the latter part of 2012, the Barry Music Shop took on the dealership of Line6 guitar amplification and pro-audio. Since then,

our guitar amplifier sales have dramatically increased, with both the Micro-Spider, battery powered amplifier and the Spider IV 15 watt amplifier, rushing out of our door.

Both amplifiers not only produce excellent sound, but also feature some superb digital effects. The Micro-Spider even has a microphone input, so not only operating on either battery or mains – it is an extremely versatile amplifier – great for busking or for the singer/guitarist.

No matter whether you are looking for instruments, accessories or pro-audio equipment, the Barry Music Shop are THE specialists throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.

We also have very good suppliers that offer next day deliveries, so even in the unlikely event we do not have it in stock – we can get it next day!

Please do not forget – expert help and advice is always available from all our staff.

For all your pet needs...



LEFT: Wendy of Pets 'R' Us, with a cute young white lop rabbit.

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Exciting new season at Scallywags

NOW enjoying three generations of trend-setting...

At Scallywags, we're always on the look-out for exciting new brands to bring you...and new for this season, we are proud to announce the arrival of Billieblush!

It is a cool, sassy collection which is practical and affordable for those aged 4 to 10 years old.

We have new ranges arriving daily from Timberland, Joules, Eliane et Lena Absorba, Jean Bourget and Lelli Kelly, and many more.

It's going to be a really exciting season at Scallywags – so come and visit us and see what's in store.




Introducing **Billieblush** Spring-Summer 2013

2 Willow Walk, Cowbridge (Town Hall car park) 01446 772104

Kindermusik A good beginning never ends...

RESearch suggests musically trained kids do better in school, with stronger reading skills, increased ability in maths, better listening and language development.

Music even improves social development, as people believe music helps them be better team players and have higher self-esteem.

Based on what we already know about the ways that music helps shape the brain, new studies suggest that short-term music lessons may enhance lifelong listening and learning.

The Kindermusik experience focuses on the whole child giving them the best start in life.

Try a free class and see why 99 per cent of parents would recommend Kindermusik.

A good beginning never ends!



For a Child's Brain, Body, Heart & Soul



New term starting 22nd February in Cowbridge and Ystradowen
Book your FREE place with Kindermusik
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www.kindermusikwithleonie.co.uk

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Fun all round at Coconuts!
THE PLAY AND PARTY CENTRE IN BARRY

NEW PARTIES LAUNCHING MARCH 2013

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Tel: 01446 740404

Go to www.nutsaboutfun.com to find out more!
Situated off the McDonalds roundabout in Sully/Barry.

Fun Foundations' 'superlative childcare'

FUN Foundations Day Nursery has recently celebrated receiving a Quality Assurance Award (Quality for All (QfA)) from Wales Playgroup and Pre-school Association.

This award shows how achieving, maintaining and improving the quality of care for the children in their provision is their constant aim and priority.

QfA fully meets the Welsh Government's proposed framework for their expectations of a childcare quality assurance scheme in Wales.

It builds on how childcare providers reflect on, review and develop their provision at a pace that suits them and their staff team.

The team at Fun Foundations were overjoyed and felt that the reward reflects the care and dedication that they have put into providing superlative childcare in Cowbridge since 2010!

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk



Delighted to be accredited with the Wales PPA Quality Award!

Reasons to celebrate

- 'Educare' that is child-centred, adventurous and exciting for all!
- All our staff have the relevant childcare qualifications and have completed the necessary Criminal Record Bureau Inspections
- School - run Service, which may include us dropping off and/or collecting from the local area.
- Exclusive parking for dropping off and collecting your children.
- Equipment includes Deluxe Role play unit and Interactive White Board, vegetable and herb garden.
- Fresh meals prepared daily by Sue, the nursery cook.
- A personal service - managed by two local primary teachers with excellent links to local schools.

CCTV operated in all rooms

10% discount for each additional sibling registered. Childcare vouchers accepted.

Tel: 01446 771117
We look forward to seeing you!
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Jolly Jesters popular all year round

JOLLY JESTERS is a children's soft playcentre, where youngsters aged 1-10 years old can come and play.

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JOLLY JESTER'S PLAYCENTRE



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To save even more, bring us your clothing and we embroider it for you

Polo shirts in supermarkets are £1. We

apply the school logo for £2.75 – total cost to you £3.75.

Sweatshirts are £3. You supply, we apply – total cost is just £5.75.

We provide uniforms for St Athan, Eagleswell, Rhooose, St Illtyd, Llancarfan and more throughout the Vale.

We are Major Print and Embroidery and are located next door to Weavers Ford at Llandow, Unit 1a, Penlllyn Way, Vale Business Park, CF71 7PF. Telephone 01446 678244.

Also, see our advert in the 'In Business' feature pages.

SAVE £££

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Council to fast-track Welsh medium primary school

THE popularity of Welsh medium education in the Vale has prompted the council to unveil proposals to expand a Barry school ahead of schedule.

The Vale Council will submit a request to the Welsh Government for funds to be released to enable the completion of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Barry, in one phase. The school was opened with a nursery and reception class in September 2011. The

original plan was to expand the school in separate phases, depending on the rate of growth in the number of pupils.

However, the council now plans to accelerate the school's completion, as demand for places at the school continues to increase.

The council will request the release of Welsh Government capital funding from the 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member of children's services said: "The popularity of Ysgol

Gymraeg Nant Talwg since its launch in September 2011, has shown there continues to be a growing demand for Welsh medium education.

"Given the rapid growth of the school, rather than extend it in two separate phases as originally planned, we are advocating a fast-track approach to complete the school in one phase, by the financial year 2015, which will deliver a more cost effective solution.

"This decision demonstrates our commitment

to investing in education and delivering a high standard of Welsh medium education in the Vale."

The proposal recommends the construction of the new school building behind the existing building. The access point for the school would remain the same.

If the proposal gets the go-ahead by the Welsh Government, Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg would be completed by 2015 and have a capacity of 210 pupils.



Photographed with Alun Cairns MP are: Mrs Marlene Wheeldon, Mrs Elizabeth Driver, Mrs Peta James, Mrs Mary Randle, Mrs Elizabeth Gabb, Mrs Jeannie Parkhouse, Mrs Daphne Townsend.

Marie Curie fundraisers get tour of Westminster

VALE MP Alun Cairns recently welcomed fundraisers for Marie Curie Cancer Care to the Houses of Parliament.

The group of Llantwit Major and western Vale residents met the MP at the summer fair last year and were keen to take up his invitation to visit Westminster.

This year, Marie Curie nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals will care for more than 2,250 people with a terminal illness, as well as provide support for their families across Wales. Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Wheeldon and the team of fantastic Marie Curie fundrais-

ers from Llantwit, Rhooose, Llanmaes, Barry and St Athan to the Palace of Westminster.

"I was able to take the group on a tour of the House of Commons and recounted snippets of history and facts to the knowledgeable group, before having the opportunity to lead them out on to the Terrace alongside the Thames.

"Marie Curie Cancer Care is dedicated to the care of people with terminal cancer and other illnesses. With more

than 130 Marie Curie nurses working in communities across Wales, they provide terrific support and friendship to many patients and their families during very emotional and fraught times.

"It is a service that is valued by each and everyone that comes into contact with their care."

To find out more about the care and support that Marie Curie Cancer Care offers or to help fundraise for the charity, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk

Penlllyn Bridge

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for January:

January 3: 15 pairs – 1st, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 60.42 per cent; 2nd, Helen and Mike Ruttle 55.42; 3rd, Diana Lewis and Myrtle Hansard 55.

January 10: 22 pairs – 1st Norma Barber and Moyra Cuthill 59.77 per cent; 2nd, Rita Williams and Gill Harding 59.55; 3rd, Sally Kennedy and Annie Jones 57.95.

January 17: 20 pairs – 1st, Allan Evans and Ann Richards 61.62 per cent; 2nd, Mary Wallis

and Glenda Roberts 59.09; 3rd, Christine Impey and Julia Evans 56.57.

January 24: 17 pairs – 1st Colin and Judith Nunn 62.5 per cent; 2nd Colin Easterbrook and Viv Roberts 59.29; 3rd, Helen and Mike Ruttle 58.57.

January 31: Robert Brown Cup – 21 Pairs – 1st, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 58.33 per cent; 2nd, Mary Wallis and Glenda Roberts 56.11; 3rd, David and Marian Stephenson 55.83.

CN

Andy's hope at Cheltenham

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

ANDY QUICK, of the Greendown Inn, Drope, has high hopes that his grey gelding *My Fella* will be good enough to race at Cheltenham Racecourse, the spiritual home of National Hunt racing.

Meanwhile, *My Fella's* next target is the men's open race at the North Hereford Hunt Steeplechases at Whitwick Manor on February 23. All going well, after that the men's open race at the Duke of Beaufort Hunt at Didmarton is on the cards.

Mr Quick, who knew nothing about

training horses before he bought *My Fella*, has done remarkably well to train a winner in such a short time and as Aberthyn trainer Tim Vaughan told him last year when *My Fella* won for the first time at Bonvilston: "You don't know what you have achieved. People take years to train a winner and you have done it in your first year."

Mr Quick said: "Nick Williams, who won on him last weekend at the Tiverton, thinks the North Hereford course will suit him, so that is why we will be going there for the horse's next race."

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are
Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Alan Taylor

I AM very sad to report that Alan Taylor passed away last Monday, after a brave fight.

Alan was involved in everything to do with Llancarfan and gave an enormous amount of time and effort into the village he loved; he will be sorely missed by all his many friends.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sue and the family. I will publish more details in due course.

MPN Windows, your local Network VEKA member is recommended by Steve Davies

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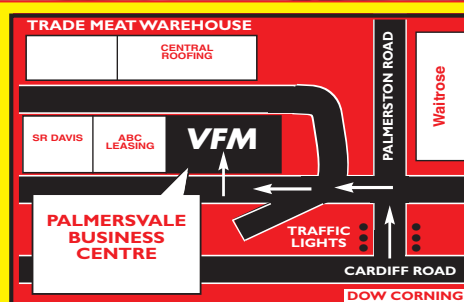


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Vale building excellence awards 2013

THE tenth Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group Building Excellence awards were held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel Barry on January 25.

The evening was attended by Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration and innovation; Coun Fred Johnson, cabinet member for planning and transportation, and the Mayor of the Vale Coun Eric Hacker.

The Building Control team were present on the evening and were joined by the event sponsors, Mr. Raymond Court-Hampton, manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Jan Irving of The Glamorgan GEM, Nina and Rob Chivers of Nina Estate Agents and representatives of ACD Skip Hire.

The evening was hosted by Marcus Goldsworthy, operational manager for development and building control at the Vale Council who emphasised: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality, and congratulations go to all the winners who will now have the chance to compete against the winners from other councils in south Wales."

"The South Wales Building Excellence awards are due to be held at the Vale Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on April 26, and will be hosted by Jamie Owen, the BBC news presenter."

"I am also hopeful that some of these schemes will go forward to the Building Excellence Award national finals, which will be held in London in November 2013, where they will be up against nominations from not just Wales, but England too."

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry."

"Our thanks must go out to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary," he added.

In every category there were 'commended', 'highly commended' and 'award winners' who will go forward to the South Wales event. They were:

Category 1 - Extension/alteration to a dwelling: Anthony Woodward Property Developments for the alteration and extension to Llandough House, Llanblethian; Category 2 - New Single Dwellings: Gwyn G. Jones & Sons for the new dwelling at Hillcrest, (The Slips), Cowbridge; Category 3 - Housing 2 - 10 dwellings: Waterstone Homes for the development at Westra, Dinas Powys; Category 4 - Conversion Category: JCW Construction Ltd, for the conversion and new builds at Llantwit Major Social Club; Category 5 - Community Healthcare and Public Buildings: Interserve Construction Ltd., for the New Medical Centre at Llandough Hospital, Llandough, Penarth.

Two of the following 'Highly Commended' schemes will also have an opportunity to enter the South Wales Awards and these are Bullock Construction for the new social housing at The Herberts, St. Mary Church, and Leekes for the apartment conversion at Benjamin Hall, Hensol.

The Vale Council wish all of the above schemes good luck in progressing to the national award finals.



ABOVE:
Coun Lis Burnett presenting the category 5 winner's award to Interserve Construction.



ABOVE:
ACD Recycling and Skip Hire making the presentation to category 1 winner NKG Construction.



ABOVE:
ACD Recycling and Skip Hire being thanked by Rob Thomas, director of development services at the Vale Council, for contributing to the awards.



ABOVE:
Category 5 - Highly Commended. Coun Lis Burnett congratulating ISG Construction for Pendoylan School building



ABOVE:
Nina Chivers of Nina Estate Agents presenting the category 2 single dwelling award to Gwyn G Jones & Son.



LEFT:
Raymond Court-Hampton, the new general manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, presenting the category 3 award to Waterstone Homes.



ABOVE: Nina Chivers is thanked for part-sponsoring the awards by Coun Lis Burnett.



ABOVE: The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Eric Hacker, thanks Raymond Court-Hampton of the Mount Sorrel Hotel for helping to sponsor the building awards



ABOVE: Jan Irving is thanked for The GEM's part-sponsorship of the awards by Coun Fred Johnson.



ABOVE:
Jan Irving of the GEM newspaper presenting the category 4 winner to Coun Eric Hacker on behalf of JCW Costruction Ltd.

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 Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U Reference 890839
 Suitable for a family
 • Two-bedroom house
 • Gas central heating
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 Rent £80.01 per week including service charges

COURTNEY ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 1089729
 Suitable for a single person or couple with one child
 • Two-bedroom house
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 • Double glazing
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 Rent £74.65 per week

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY

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 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Utility room/gardens
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HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 967385
 Suitable for a single person or couple
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 • Second floor (no lift)
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Garden and parking
 Rent £73.71 per week including service charges

LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 215083
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement
 • One-bedroom flat
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 • Double glazing
 • Communal gardens
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MASEFIELD ROAD, PENARTH

H4U reference 241185
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Gardens and alarm
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OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1011672
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Adapted bath
 • Second floor (lift)
 • Economy 7 heating
 • Double glazing
 Rent £102.90 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1099598
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
 • Studio flat (ground floor)
 • Walk-in shower
 • Second floor (lift)
 • Economy 7 heating
 • Double glazing
 Rent £91.90 per week including service charge

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 221628
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £80.82 pw including water & sewerage chgs

SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY

H4U reference 223694
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Lower ground floor
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £80.24 pw including water & sewerage chgs

ST JULIANS CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 225143
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £97.12 per week including water charges

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 226252
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor (steps)
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £76.37 pw including water & sewerage chgs

TY FFYNNON, BARRY

H4U reference 226654
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Lower ground floor
 • Central heating
 • Double glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £80.53 pw including water & sewerage chgs

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228377
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Second floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 Rent £80.82 per week including water charges

MAIN STREET, BARRY

Newydd Housing Association announces the new development of nine flats in Main Street, Barry

These high quality, energy efficient properties will be available to rent during April and May 2013. The development will consist of:

- 2x one bedroom flats,
- 5x two bedroom flats and
- 2x two bedroom flats designated for applicants in need of a ground floor property for mobility reasons.

Expressions of interest are invited from all current applicants of HOMES4U.

Priority will be given to existing social housing tenants wishing to downsize who have an excellent tenancy history.

Interest will be considered from applicants with local work and, or life connections. References will be required where possible, and interviews will take place if necessary.

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references and carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this development.

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property
 The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property
 The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property
 The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property
 The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



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LOMBARD STREET, BARRY
 Mid terraced, three bedrooms, through living room, fitted kitchen. Ground floor: Modern bathroom. Lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.
£109,950

NEW

LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY
 Modern semi detached. Two double bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Detached garage. Enclosed garden. Driveway. No chain. Vacant possession.
£144,950

NEW

GLADSTONE COURT, BARRY
 Two bedroomed apartment, ideally placed in town centre. Communal entrance stairs to 2nd floor, entrance hallway. Living room with upvc French door to balcony. Fitted kitchen, replacement bathroom. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG throughout.
£89,950

NEW

NORTH WALK, BARRY
 Extended semi detached. Two reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor bathroom. Lean to sun lounge. ladder to attic/hobby. Driveway/garage. No chain.
£109,950

NEW

PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY
 Stunning mid terraced. Through living room, well presented. Kitchen/diner, off road parking from rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.
£109,950

NEW

DAVID STREET, BARRY
 Two double bedroomed, mid terraced, two reception rooms. Ground floor bathroom. Garden backing onto woodland. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.
£92,950

NEW

LANGLAND ROAD, BARRY
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Through living room. Utility area/cloakroom. Spacious plot. Room to extend (subject to planning). No chain.
£129,950

NEW

THE GROVE, BARRY
 Spacious living accommodation. Edwardian mid terraced. Original features throughout. Living/dining room, fitted kitchen, sitting room. Two bathrooms.
£227,500

NEW PRICE

MELLYN Y GORS, BARRY
 Modern detached. Three double bedrooms. Master ensuite. Sitting room (converted garage). Living room, dining room, replacement kitchen, utility & wc cloakroom. Large rear garden/ample parking.
£197,000

NEW PRICE

COLLARD CRESCENT, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, semi detached. Living room, dining room, wc cloakroom. Driveway/garage. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Ideal family home.
£144,950

NEW PRICE

GLYN Y GOG, BARRY
 Well presented. Corner positioned. Four bedrooms, modern detached. Two separate reception rooms. Two ensuite and family bathroom. Private enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. Viewing essential.
£239,950

NO CHAIN

MAIN STREET, BARRY
 End of terraced. Three bedrooms. Through living/dining room. Ground floor bathroom. In need of modernisation. Gas CH, partially upvc DG. Investment property.
£69,950

SPACIOUS PLOT

WEST WALK, BARRY
 Spacious plot ideal for further extending (subject to usual planning). Three bedrooms. Attic hobby room. Living room, ground floor bathroom. Semi detached. Driveway/garage. No chain. Enclosed garden.
£99,950

3 RECEPTION ROOMS

CHANNEL CLOSE, BARRY
 Modern detached. Living room, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen. Shower room wc. Three bedrooms, family bathroom. Shower room wc. garage/enclosed garden.
£170,000

ENCLOSED GARDEN

FONMON PARK ROAD, BARRY
 Modern detached. wc cloakroom, living room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, dining room, master with ensuite. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway garage, side access. upvc DG. Gas CH. Viewing essential.
£164,950

GARAGE

STATION STREET, BARRY
 Three bedroomed. Mid terraced traditional. Through living room. Kitchen/diner. Spacious family bathroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Town centre location.
£121,500

LARGE GARDEN

NORDALE RISE, BARRY
 Two bedroomed, modern mid link. Living room. 2012 fitted kitchen/diner. upvc DG, Gas CH. Larger than average rear garden. Designated parking.
£94,950

IMMAC. CONDITION

BROAD CLOSE, BARRY
 Maintenance free ground floor. Living room, modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms. Sun terrace overlooking communal gardens. Garage. Designated parking. No chain.
£112,000

SEA VIEWS

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
 In need of some modernisation. Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Two reception rooms. Garage/driveway. Sea views from rear. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Walks to beaches. No chain.
£185,000

GARAGE

GIBBONSDOWN CLOSE, BARRY
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Corner position. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. Garage/parking. Cul de sac position. No Chain.
£129,950

3 REC ROOMS

WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
 Spacious living throughout. Mid terraced traditional. Three bedrooms. Three reception rooms. Enclosed courtyard. Lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Situated near shops, schools.
£126,000

AMID TOWN CENTRE

BASSETT STREET, BARRY
 End of terrace. Three bedrooms. 21ft living room, dining room. First floor bathroom. Enclosed patio garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Town centre location.
£104,950

TRUE BUNGALOW

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
 Traditional semi detached bay fronted bungalow. Three bedrooms. Reception room. Sun lounge. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway to front.
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BELL STREET, BARRY
 Two bedroomed. Traditional mid terraced. Living/dining room. Kitchen. wc cloakroom. First floor family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden. Minutes walk to Porthorri.
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4 BED 3 REC

BROAD STREET, BARRY
 Bay fronted. Four bedrooms. Mid terraced traditional. Three reception rooms. Channel views from first floor. West End location. Enclosed garden/garage. Ideal family home.
£147,950

4 BEDS ATTIC ENSUITE

OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY
 Modern detached. Three bedrooms. wc. cloakroom. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Enclosed rear garden. Side access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi.
£149,950

OPEN TO OFFERS

GELYNY CIER, BARRY
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. Private enclosed garden. Driveway to front. No chain. Viewing highly recommended.
£149,950 - Open to Offers

FOUR BEDROOMS

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
 Mid terrace, bay fronted traditional. Three reception rooms. Four bedrooms. Family bathroom. Original features. Sea views.
£189,950

4 BEDS GARAGE

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
 End of terrace bay fronted traditional. Through living room. Dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms. Family bathroom. Garage. Sea views from garden.
£199,950

OPEN TO OFFERS

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
 Mid terraced traditional. Living room, 2nd reception used as bedroom - ensuite. Dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. upvc DG. Gas CH via replaced combi.
£117,950 - Open to Offers

BALCONY VIEWS

YEW TREE COURT, BARRY
 Third floor apartment. Two bedrooms. balcony views overlooking Romilly Park. Fitted kitchen, spacious living room. Designated parking.
£114,950

DETACHED GARAGE

HEOL CORSWIGEN, BARRY
 Modern detached. Three bedrooms. wc. cloakroom, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast. Master with ensuite. Private enclosed garden. Raised sun deck terrace. Detached garage.
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SEA VIEWS

ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
 1930's bay fronted. Semi detached. Retaining many original features. Stained glass windows, black flooring. Three bedrooms. Sea & Park views. Two reception rooms. wc cloakroom. Kitchen/dining room.
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6 BEDS 4 REC

CLOS YR FULFRAN, BARRY
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VIEWS OVER VALE

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
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16 yard	£240	
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Ref: WCC/PY645

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Up to £6.47 per hour
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Ref: WCC/PY746 - 16.45 hours to be worked over 3 days a week
Ref: WCC/PY743 - 22.5 hours to be worked over 4 days a week

For further information and an application form contact the Council by visiting www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or telephone Contact OneVale on 01446 700111 between 8am-6pm.

Closing Date: 21 February 2013.

Subject to * CRB Disclosure.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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The GEM is looking for a
First Class Typist

For shift work (11am-7pm,
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You must be able to type a minimum of 80wpm
whilst maintaining accuracy, and an
excellent spelling ability, as spellcheck is not
relied upon. Familiarity with Apple Mac is an
advantage but training will be given on the
operating system. A good knowledge of our
distribution area is required.

12 month contract at minimum wage,
based in Cowbridge.

Initial interview will be a competency test.

Please email your relevant qualifications and
experience to: caroline@tindlenews.co.uk

(No telephone enquiries please. We can only respond
to those candidates we wish to interview.)

Birthdays

Happy Birthday

GARETH
JAMIESON

on 8th February

Best wishes from all
your friends at The GEM

HAVE A GREAT DAY!



Family Notices

WILLIAMS

Peacefully on January 28 at Llandough
Hospital after a short illness, Philemon
Bassett (Phil), aged 86 years of Radnor
Green, Barry. Dearly loved husband of
Barbara and brother of Norman and the
late Vincent, loved brother-in-law to
Valerie, Dorothy and Mary. Cherished
uncle to all his nephews and nieces.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home,
Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on
Friday February 8. Service at Cardiff &
Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry,
where family and friends please meet 4.30pm.
Family flowers only, if desired, donations may
be handed to the funeral director after the
funeral for British Lung Foundation Wales.

Sherwood, Joan

Died peacefully on January 29th.
Beloved wife of the late Alf Sherwood.
Mother of Jane Sherwood and
the late Robert Sherwood.

Funeral: Church service 12.15pm Monday February
11th at the Holy Cross church in Cowbridge, then
Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

BAGSTAFF
Terry

Suddenly but peacefully on February 1 at Princess
of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Terry of Llantwit
Major. Dearly loved husband of Sally and loving
father of Stephanie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &
Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Monday February 11, service
and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium,
Bridgend. Family flowers only may be sent to the
Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British
Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Ffnonn Road,
Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Funeral Directors

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Wick area on February 4.

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GOLDEN COCKER
SPANIEL (BITCH)

Please ring
07739 438868

Public
Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17(5)

Notice of Application
for a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT

An application has been made
to Bridgend County Borough
Council (the Licensing
Authority) for a

PREMISES LICENCE

To permit licensable activities which
it is proposed will be carried out, on
or from the premises shown below.
Details of the application may be
inspected between the hours of
Monday to Thursday 0930 to 1700
hours and Friday 0930 to 1630
hours at Civic offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting
the authority's website:
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Any responsible authority or any
other person may make
representations in respect of the
application, which must be
submitted, in writing, to the following
address before the date shown
below:-

Licensing Section, Bridgend County
Borough Council, Civic Offices,
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.
Name of Applicant:
Mr Franco Salvatore Scuto
Name and postal address of
the premises:
Franco's Restaurant
53 Norton Street, Bridgend,
CF31 3AD.

Statement of intended
licensable activities:
Supply of alcohol, recorded music
Mon to Sat 10:00 - 23:30 &
Sun 12:00 - 22:30 hours.
31st Dec 10:00 - 01:00 hours.
Late night refreshments
Mon to Sat 23:00 - 23:30 hours.
Live music
Mon to Thurs 18:00 - 23:00 hours;
Fri to Sat 18:00 - 23:30 hours;
Sundays 18:00 - 22:30 hours.
31st Dec 18:00 - 01:00 hours.

Date by which representations
must be made: 4th March, 2013.
This notice remains in force from
and including the day after the giving
of this notice to the licensing
authority, namely 4th February,
2013, for 28 consecutive days.
It is an offence knowingly or
recklessly to make a false statement
in connection with an application.
The maximum fine on summary
conviction is £5,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern.

We, The Parish of our Lady
and St Illtyd do hereby give
notice that we have applied to
the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council)
for the grant of our Premises
Licence at Ham Lane,
Llantwit Major, known as
Our Lady and St Illtyd's
Catholic Church.

Any person wishing to make
representations in respect of
this application may do so in
writing to the Licensing
Team, Vale of Glamorgan
Council, Civic Offices,
Holton Road, Barry CF63
4RU no later than 28 days
from and including the date
of this notice (as below).
Representations received
after this date will not be
considered.

A copy of this application can
be viewed at the Licensing
Authority's address during
normal office hours.
It is an offence to knowingly
or recklessly to make a false
statement in connection with
this application - the
maximum fine on summary
conviction being £5,000.

Signed: F. E. Neizer,
on behalf of the applicant.
Dated: 30-1-2013.

Ty Hafan
Hospice gets
£100,000
boost, thanks
to top chefs!

Sian Wyn Owen from Cowbridge,
who cooks at the River Cafe, with
David Kelman of Ellenborough Park.

TOP chefs from
some of the most
exclusive restaur-
ants in Wales,
London and
beyond, impressed
some of the most
discerning foodies
in the country at a
fundraising event in
aid of Ty Hafan.

The third annual
'Chefs' Night Out' took
place on Saturday,
January 26 at the Parc
Hotel by Thistle in
Cardiff and raised more
than £100,000 for the
charity.

Cooks who have
worked alongside the
likes of Marco Pierre
White and Keith Floyd
produced exquisite food
for 140 guests, including
rugby pundit Jonathan
Davies.

The event's organiser,
Welsh businessman
David Loosemore, has a
very personal reason for
wanting to support Ty
Hafan, as his six-year-
old daughter Isabella has
been having short-break
stays at the hospice.

David said: "Knowing
that Bella is being
looked after by a
remarkable team is
extremely important to
us. She really loves it
there and has made some
lovely friends."

"To see the way the
care team love and care
for her is amazing.
Holding this fantastic
event is a way to show
my appreciation. I really
can't thank Ty Hafan
enough for what they
do."

Speaking before the
event, chef Roger Jones,
who runs the Harrow
Little Bedwyn restaurant
in Wiltshire said: "A
kitchen represents the
heart of every home and
at Ty Hafan, the atmos-
phere is a warm and
welcoming break away
from the families own
homes," he said.

"It is therefore with
great pleasure that I will
again be cooking at the
fundraising dinner."

A number of other
esteemed chefs and ris-

ing stars - including two
Michelin star chef
Michael Wignall from
Latymer at Pennyhill
Park - cooked for the
lucky guests. Tears were
shed during the evening,
when family support
practitioner Hayley Mills
read out the words of
18-year-old Amy Claire
Davies, who expressed
the love and support she
receives at the hospice.

Amy, from Swansea,
has an incurable immune
system illness and was
unfortunately too ill to
attend the event as
planned.

"I hope I did Amy
proud," said Hayley. "It
is incredibly humbling to
think so many people are
supportive of Ty Hafan."

After a champagne
reception, a four-course
meal and raffle draw,
guests had the opportu-
nity to bid for the chef
they wanted to engage
for a dinner party, either
in their own home or at
an alternative venue.

Michelin star chef
Juan Galvez from the
Marbella Club in Spain
received the highest bid
of £9,500 for 10 guests
to enjoy a dining experi-
ence at his hotel, recent-
ly voted the Best Hotel
in Europe.

All of the chefs' donated their time, food
and wine to support Ty
Hafan in providing spe-
cialist palliative care
services for children,
young people and their
families.

As it deals with an
increasing number of
children and young peo-
ple with a complex
range of needs, Ty Hafan
needs that financial sup-
port more than ever.

Chefs at the event:
Hywel Jones; James
Sommerin; Duncan
Barham; Roger Jones;
Stephen Terry; Richard
Davies; David Kelman;
Sian Rees; Sian Wyn
Owen; Gwyn Myring
and Tom Furlong; Juan
Galvez; Paul Croadale;
Mark Jordan; and
Michael Wignall.

Visit www.tyhafan.org

Planting new Cee'd for futuristic estates!

ADDED emotion, character, improved proportions and stance – that's how Peter Schreyer, Kia's chief design officer, describes the new Cee'd Sportswagon in comparison to its predecessor.

As I set eyes on it, I tend to agree.

Traditionally estate cars have been bland and boring, drivers really only buying them because they needed the extra space, rather than necessarily wanting to drive one.

I know couples where the husband has the fun car – the coupe – and the wife has the estate, under sufferance. Thankfully, such pur-

chases are now more subjective the more attractive they have become. The curvaceous Cee'd Sportswagon is right at the forefront of this revolution.

Mr Schreyer and his team should be satisfied with a job well done.

Head on, its sloping bonnet complete with sophisticated chrome-edged grille, sets the standard for this futuristically styled estate.

Kia has even done away with the dull 'estate' term preferring instead 'Sportswagon' shortened to SW – far more trendy and upbeat.

Of course, this puts it straight in Peugeot 308SW territory but in terms of classy looks, the Kia wins.

You want to get in and drive this car. But estates are all about

load carrying, so we must consider the boot first.

It's capacious and has been made as easy to use as possible; the boot floor flush with the tailgate opening as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

The rear seats fold to ensure a completely flat load deck. It makes light work of the week's shopping and on another journey, the month's supply of logs.

But there's more to the Sportswagon. I drove the old Cee'd and I was therefore surprised when I first stepped inside this new model.

Where its predecessor lacked refinement and quality, its replacement oozes with them. Seriously, it's as if VW has breathed on certain parts, most notably the

MOTORING with Tim Saunders



The Kia Cee'd Sportswagon

hard and supportive driving seat and its position – perfect for the dreaded motorway commute.

You can imagine that this will withstand much wear and tear. The doors shut with a satisfying 'thunk' and the environment in which driver and pas-

sengers find themselves is indeed very comfortable and of good quality. Its dashboard favours the driver, which is a nice touch.

The SW is let down, though, by the use of seemingly cheap looking and feeling black plastics for the indicator and windscreen wiper

stalks either side of the steering wheel.

Then on opening the driver's window, the trim proceeds to rattle as I drive along. The engine stop/start leaves much to be desired for me, too as there's no consistency as to when it kicks in.

Iron out these minor criticisms and this could be a faultless vehicle.

Just two diesel engines are available, a 1.4 or a 1.6 but both return well over 60mpg. The 1.6 model EcoDynamics model tested comes with a smooth six-speed gearbox and steering mounted cruise control, stereo and telephone functions.

It's a responsive vehicle, making for an enjoyable drive and noticeably surprises the driver of a Volvo V70 as I overtake.

Equipment includes adjustable and automatically folding heated wing mirrors, air conditioning, all round electric windows, projection headlights, daytime running lights and even a cooled glovebox with controls inside.

"The Kia Cee'd Sportswagon is a medium-sized estate that's designed to be practical, stylish and good value for money," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"Further bolstering the Sportswagon's load-carrying capabilities are roof rails, myriad storage points and a braked towing weight of 1,500kg.

"The original Kia Cee'd SW, launched in 2007, proved to be a spacious and smartly-styled small estate which didn't cost much to run. The only down-

sides were a dull drive and some questionable interior trim."

Welcome to a new breed of exciting estate where there is plenty of useful storage space and good levels of comfort. The only thing I don't understand is its name – but perhaps it relates to vision... as Focus does for Ford.

2012 onwards, new price range: £16,895 - £24,795;

Kia Cee'd Sportswagon 1.6 CRDi 4 5d;

Economy: 64mpg;

0-60mph: 10.8secs;

Top speed: 120mph;

Power: 126bhp;

Fuel capacity: 53

litres, over 600 to a

tank.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.



Pupil critic praises the village hall panto!



LEFT Robin Hood meets a Welsh dragon!

FOLLOWING their success at the Llangan and St Mary Hill Village Hall, the committee members' production of this year's panto, *Robin Hood and Snow White*, took to the stage once more – but this time in a school hall.

The children of Llangan Primary School were treated to

a new panto performance, and what better feedback than from the children themselves?

Here is the note that the crew received from a pupil soon after the show:

"I thought it was really good. I really enjoyed it when Samantha sang her H-A-P-P-Y song, it was amazing.

"I also thought that Ashley was funny playing Dopey. Maud was brilliant at being Sleepy.

"I particularly liked her when she was sleeping standing up and sleep-walking, it was so funny.

"All round, it was undecidable, that is how good it was." – from Sacha in year-5.

Thank you very much for these kind words, Sacha, and (hopefully) we will see you again next year!

KL

'I am a mole and I live in a hole' ... quite a few, actually!



GEM reader Geoffrey Harding of Llantwit Major, took this striking photograph on February 2 near his home. "I've called it 'the great mole flood,'" he said. "The site is several acres of low-lying ground near Aberthaw Cement Works. I have lived in this area for more than 40 years and have never seen anything quite like it, although I pass this land most days."

Vale AM attends a moving exhibition on Vale artist at the School of Optometry

A MOVING photographic exhibition of Vale artist Sol Jorgensen's work, to show her life with her son, Seth, has been opened by Jane Hutt AM at the School of Optometry at Cardiff University.

Mencap Cymru is promoting the exhibition, which is also supported by Disability Arts Cymru, raising awareness of the needs and interests of disabled young people and their carers.

The Vale AM commented: "It is a truly thought-provoking exhibition and a privilege to look inside Sol and Seth's world."



Jane Hutt AM, Sol and Seth Jorgensen, and Mencap representatives.

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New Auris 1.33 VVT-15 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (V100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 Emissions 125g/km.

Chess teams back in action

AFTER all the snow it is nice to get back to playing chess!

Our matches this week include the Camelots taking on the Cardiff AJs, one of their closest rivals for promotion from division two, and the Gambits travelling to Pentrych also to take on one of their closest rivals, but this time it is a third division relegation fight.

In the reverse encounter last September the Camelots lost by a score of 3-2 to the AJs and this time we wanted revenge. With Nigel Ralphs still being struck down with a virus, our team was on paper at least weaker than in the first game but you would not have known that from the performance from the Barry boys.

Ken Hannah was the only player not to record a win as we eventually took the match 4-1. With the Cardiff Dragons also losing and the Bridgend A team only managing a draw this meant that, like the cream in a bottle of milk, we had risen to the top.

The Camelots position is looking strong as we hold a 2.5 point advantage over Bridgend and also have a game in hand against the Pontypridd Barbarians, who are propping up the

table having lost their last match 5-0. Things certainly don't look so rosy for the Gambits who are hanging onto their division three status by the thinnest of threads.

A draw against a strong Pentrych side was not enough and the Gambits remain in the relegation places.

This division suffered more than the others with postponements because of the inclement weather, so the Gambits find themselves marooned one point away from safety, but having played at least one game more than all of the other teams in the bottom half of the table.

In fact they have played six matches since their last win, although three of these games ended in draws. They currently have 25 points from 12 games and will need at least 15 points from their remaining six games to stand any chance of preserving their status.

For more details visit our website - barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

PJ

MUD CAN'T STOP THE BARRY BEES WINNING

AFTER three weeks out due to the recent inclement weather, Barry Bees under-10s entertained Whitchurch on an extremely muddy and testing pitch.

After a prolonged lay off, it took a few minutes for the Bees to get into their stride, but the forwards gained the early initiative and Barry dominated possession from the outset.

Outside half Cian Anderson jinked his way through for the first score after some resolute defence from the visitors. This lit the flame as Barry began to excel despite the heavy conditions.

Winger Taylor Ross-Zeal was next to cross the line, after an excellent angled run. The forwards were keen to get in on the scoring, and rampaging second rower Charlie Bale thundered over for the next score.

Whitchurch refused to give up and began to get more of the ball but the Barry defence was in its usual unyielding mood.

Cian added another excellent score, before powerful winger Cole Saunders smashed his way over the line, after a stunning move off first phase ball, to make the score 25-0 at half time.

Whitchurch came out with renewed vigour in the second half, and the glutinous mud began to exact its toll on Barry, as legs began to tire with the slope against them.

The visitors' endeavours were rewarded with a much-deserved try but this seemed to spark the Bees again, and the tireless Cian continued to remorselessly cut through the Whitchurch defence with three more excellent tries, before Cole added a final score for Barry with a sprint that took him the length of the field.

To their credit Whitchurch continued to battle and scored with the final play of the game to make the final score 45-10.

This game will have blown the cobwebs away, as the Bees face some tough encounters in the coming weeks, not

least Tondy, who beat them in the opening match of the season.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Charlie Bale, Dylan Morris, Ethan Watkins, Joseph Nationstead, Joe Tanner, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Spencer Williams, Taylor Ross-Zeal, Cole Saunders, Simon McKenzie.

JM

Bowls club look for fixtures

DUE to unforeseen circumstances, Barry Athletic Bowls Club have fixture availability on four Saturdays in the coming season.

Any private greens or municipal clubs would be welcome; available dates are April 27 (home at Barry Island); May 4 (away); May 18 (away) and July 6 (home or away).

Contact club secretary Clive Cottrell on 01446 410708. RP

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HOLTON UNDER-9s GET SPONSOR



Holton Road FC show off their new kit.

HOLTON ROAD under-9s would like to say a big thank you to Lorraine and her team at Inkdogz.com for supplying them with their new football kit and training jackets.

Local sponsors are the lifeline of grassroots football and without them, many sides wouldn't be able to offer youngsters the opportunity of developing their football in a fun and friendly environment.

GM

Vale MP congratulates Barry's Matthew on another gold for Wales



Matthew Collins represented Wales at the SIAB Schools Indoor Combined Events International in Glasgow.

AT the end of last year, Barry Comprehensive School student Matthew Collins represented Wales in the SIAB Schools Indoor Combined Events International in Glasgow.

Matthew first competed in the under-16 team event in 2010, helping to secure the team gold, followed by his appearance in the under-18 team in 2011, taking the team silver medal.

Last year's event was staged at the new Emirates Arena in Glasgow which will be one of the venues hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The events contested were the 60 metre hurdles, shot putt, 200 metres, long jump and the 800 metres.

The under-18 boys team saw Matthew



reunited with his under-16 competition team mates Aled Price (Maes yr Yrfia) and David Omoregie (Bishop of Llandaff) and together they succeeded in securing the team gold medal once again.

Their combined points total of 10,472 beat the second placed English team by more than 200 points, and set a new Welsh under-18 boys team record.

Matthew finished a very creditable seventh with a personal best points total of 3,223, 141 more points and five places higher than last year.

Alun Cairns, MP, wrote to Matthew offering his congratulations: "To win a gold medal in such a highly competitive championship is a remarkable achievement and a great reflection of the hard work and dedication you have shown to athletics over the years."

"To represent your country is one of the proudest moments anyone can ever achieve, and though this will be your last time at this level, you no doubt left on a high."

AC

Read your GEM online?
barry-today.co.uk

Junior squash coaching sessions

AS part of Wales Squash and Racketball's aims to introduce more children to the sport of squash, new weekly coach-

ing sessions are being held at Penarth Leisure Centre for youngsters aged seven to 11 years old.

Organised in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sports and play development team, the sessions take place every Wednesday between 4pm-4.45pm and 4.45pm-5.30pm.

All equipment will be

provided so youngsters just need to wear their sports kit and be ready to play a fun new sport.

For further details please call coach Beth Winstanley on 07842 102699.

To find out more about other upcoming sports sessions for all ages in the Vale, please go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay or follow @valesportsnews on Twitter.

Barry under-9s win

GLAMORGAN Wanderers faced Barry RFC under-9s on the weekend.

Despite the miserable conditions, both sides played well with strong efforts and hard tackles. However, it was Barry who had the edge on pace at the end of the day and put in a solid performance, resulting in an 8-4 victory.

We are in need of more players; if you would like to play and are in year-4 (going to year-5 in September) please contact Danielle on 07929 343228.

Training is on Sundays at 10am and Thursday nights at 6pm at Barry RFC.

MC

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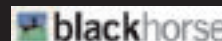
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TOO MUCH BLUDGEON, NOT ENOUGH RAPIER?

...Wales lose their crown, despite their heroic but belated fight-back



ABOVE: Welsh dejection following another Irish try turns to joy, as Leigh Halfpenny goes over to add to second half tries by Alex Cuthbert and substitute Craig Mitchell. Halfpenny's two conversions and earlier penalty brought Wales to within eight points of Ireland's total, but it wasn't quite enough to claw back the 20-point lead Wales had allowed their opponents to build up in the first half.



Pictures courtesy of Huw Evans Agency



RIGHT: Drafted-in second row, Andrew Coombes, gave a stand-out display on his international debut for Wales.



SO NEAR...No 8 Toby Faletau just fails to ground the ball at the upright for a try that could have led to a remarkable second half turn-around and a win for Wales.

ALAS, the crown slipped sideways off the reigning Six Nations ruler's head, as a rampant Ireland destroyed all hope of Wales retaining their Grand Slam title, at a stroke, in 43 minutes of hopelessly one-sided action at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday.

No matter that the men in green then spent the next 37 minutes in embattled defence – unable to add a single point to their score – as a torpid Wales team was suddenly energised by reinforcements from the bench, finally shrugged off their inertia and an abysmal, error-strewn first half, and mounted a commendable, but ultimately futile, fight-back.

For the damage had already been done by the ruthlessly-efficient Irish, who did what the Welsh camp had earlier in the week vowed their own players would do, and came rushing out of the blocks from the start – rattling up a commanding

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23-3 lead at half time and threatening even worse to come after the change-over.

Two emphatic tries by left wing flier Simon Zebo and prop Cian Healy, converted by the assured No 10, Jonathan Sexton, who also landed three penalties – with just a single penalty kick by Wales' fullback Leigh Halfpenny in reply – had silenced the capacity 73,230 crowd.

They must have feared they were about to see the clock turned back to a time, not so very long ago (that they hoped had gone for ever) when landslide Welsh defeats were the norm rather than the exception.

The gloom in the stadium increased when just three minutes into the second half, man-of-the-match, peerless Brian O'Driscoll, dived through a gap in the willing Welsh defence for his side's third try (bringing his personal international tally to 46).

The simple conversion was popped over with aplomb by Sexton for a seemingly unsailable 30-3 lead – and the disbelieving home crowd now waited apprehensively for the floodgates to open and swamp sorry Wales, who seemed to have no answer to simple, direct rugby played with pace and intensity.

It didn't happen, for suddenly the sleepers awoke, rubbed their eyes, remembered they too were there to play rugby with a Six Nations championship at stake – and amazingly, the tables were turned in an almost complete reversal of the first half, as the heroic fight-back yielded three tries and the crowd found their voice again.

In the end, though, with just five minutes of play remaining, the task proved beyond them, and it was the weary but victorious Irish who left the field with hopes of a Triple Crown and even a Grand Slam still intact.

The Welsh camp were left to ruefully lick their wounds, and reflect on a display that in the first half had ranged from mediocre to truly abysmal, only partly redeemed by a spirited second half showing that had shown frustrating glimpses of this young team's true worth, and had certainly contributed to an enthralling contest to watch.

Notwithstanding the fact that half a dozen leading players were absent through injury, the Welsh camp will surely be asking themselves some hard questions this week as to what went wrong: Specifically, how could such a talented young team have fallen so far below the high standards that had brought them wide acclaim in the 2011 Rugby World Cup and won a Grand Slam only last year?

Worryingly, Wales are now entrenched in a confidence-sapping cycle of defeat and have just days to find the answer before they have to face their next big test – in Paris on Saturday and restore badly-battered morale – if they are to avoid a ninth loss in a row.

Interim head coach Robert Howley and the other assistant coaches, of course, will be acutely aware that Wales' rapid decline has happened on their watch, in the absence of head coach Warren Gatland – whose attention is fully engaged elsewhere, preparing for the British & Irish Lions' tour to Australia.

He was present, sober-faced, in the stands on Saturday to keep a watching brief on potential recruits for his tour party.

One wonders just what he was thinking as he watched his usual charges floundering in disarray against a superior, but not totally

convincing Ireland side, whose own try line was breached three times in the second half, lost two men to the 'sin bin' – and came perilously near to surrendering a massive 30-point lead at the end.

For Howley, though, the aftermath of the 30-22 defeat following such a sub-standard performance, inevitably brings the media spotlight squarely on his team selection and tactics – both of which have been called into question in a rugby-mad nation where everyone is a selector!

Certainly, on recent evidence, it appears that the Welsh camp may have been 'found out' in terms of a one-dimensional emphasis on size and physicality, rather than a more subtle, varied approach, particularly in midfield, as O'Driscoll and the sharp Irish backline vividly demonstrated on Saturday.

Obviously, it is rather late in the day for drastic changes in the heat of a rapidly-unfolding Six Nations tournament, and the selection options are limited.

However, Howley & Co will be forced to take some very hard decisions in the light of the harsh lessons learned against the Irish, if the rot is to be stopped in Paris and championship hopes revived. Not least is the age-old maxim that form should come before reputation.

Italy have shown the way in their remarkable and, by all accounts, fully-deserved 23-18 victory over pre-tournament favourites France.

It currently puts the Azzurri in third place in the table... and they will be now be targeting the hapless Scots (hammered 38-18 by England on Saturday) and Wales as their next big scalps, with the grim prospect of these two fighting to avoid the wooden spoon come tournament's end. Perish the thought!

What greater incentive could there be for Wales to cast off the shackles, regain self-belief, and this time come out with all guns blazing against a shell-shocked French side that will be under huge pressure of their own to perform, not least from a notoriously volatile home crowd.

'Sickened by the rugby violence'

MUCH of Don John's article in the recent edition of the GEM encapsulates my views on the practices accepted in rugby in general.

The violent events in the recent autumn Internationals sickened me and, after over 70 years as a player and ardent fan, has made me reluctant to continue to follow the game.

The attack on Biggar whilst trapped in a ruck, which resulted in his being unable to continue playing, was such that if it had occurred off the field, it could have resulted in prosecution for assault.

I was outraged when Jonathan Davies commented that "it was a fair tackle".

In addition, I am amazed that the practice of forcibly 'clearing out' is allowed to the extent that it is.

Why is it that players attempting to get possession of the ball are taken out, often violently, by the opposition, who have no intention of playing the ball?

The scrum is a sham-ble and a lottery for penalties. If the views of

Brian Moore, on the hazards to the players in the current situation, where the referees allow all sorts of illegalities, continue to be ignored then we will see some major court cases with rugby unions sued for the deaths or serious injuries of their players.

In addition, the practice of 'feeding the scrums' has altered the whole pattern of the game.

Huge front rows are now essential as the chances of winning the ball 'against the head' are negligible, and if your side's scrum is under pressure, then avoid playing in your own half, conceding scrums and giving away penalties.

This results in the kicking 'tennis matches' we have to endure.

Finally, I have had much pleasure from playing the game and from the social interactions gained whilst supporting my local club. Whereas in the past I would have hoped that my grandsons would take up the game at the highest level, I now hope that they will not.

John Evans

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